CENSUS OF INDIA 1981

TAMIL NADU

PORTRAIT OF POPULATION

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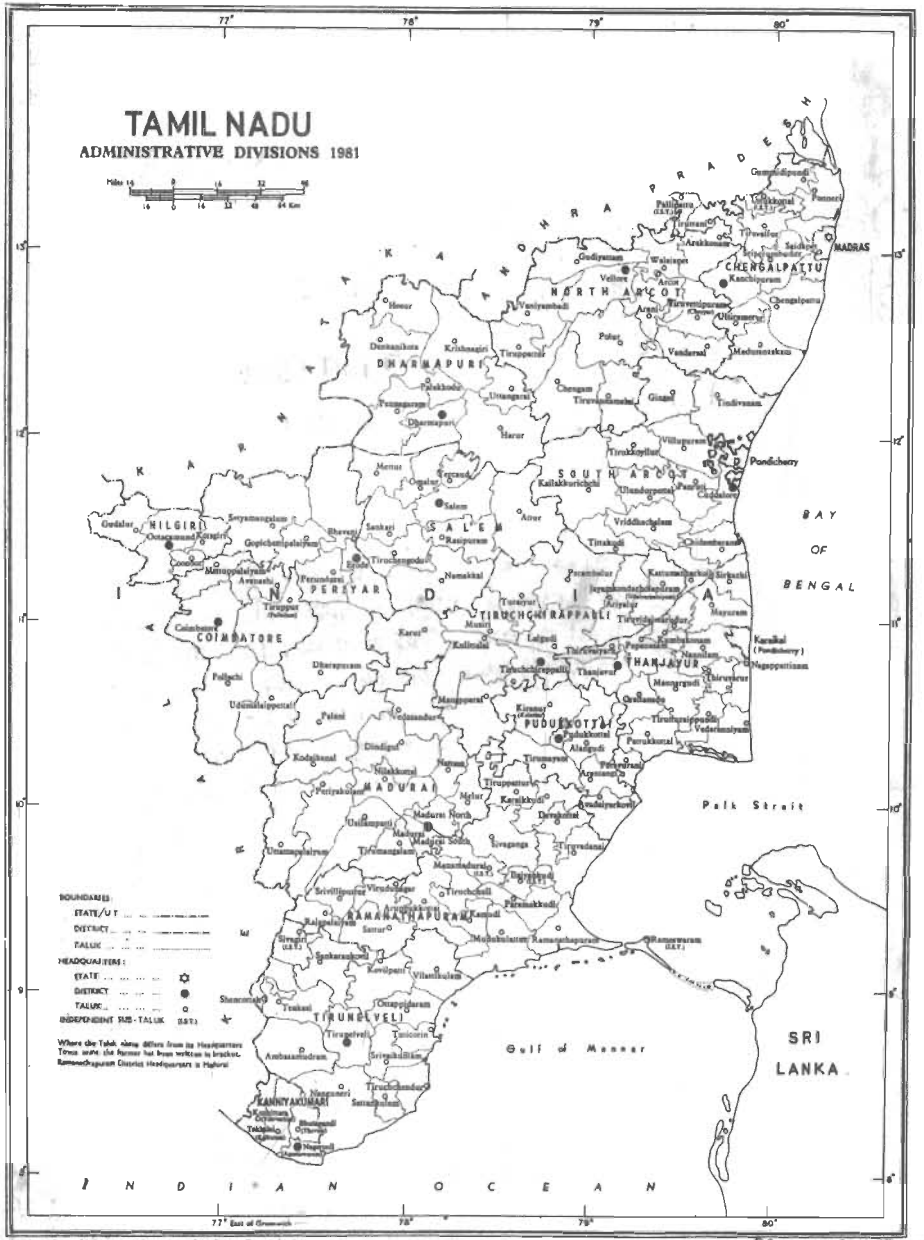

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FOREWORD

The Indian Census is now more than hundred years of age. Synchronous decennial Censuses have been taken in an unbroken sequence since 1871.

Each Census has been yielding vast quantities of data concerning the various facets of the life of the people. It is only natural that over the decades the sweep as well as the depth of the information yielded by the Census have gone on increasing. Of course, no exercise of this type and magnitude, can yield all that one may desire to know in all areas of enquiry. Within this limitation, however, the data thrown up by the Census constitute, verily, a mine of information which enter into plans and programmes, debates and writings, affecting almost all walks of the life of the common Indian.

And yet, for the common reader, this information and the large number of publications carrying it, remains, by and large, a distant, uninteresting, even intimidating, corpus.

At the time of the 1971 Census was, therefore, conceived the idea of bringing the essential Census information together in handy and readable volumes with such lay and average readers and students in view. This 1981 Census series of State/UT-wise "Portrait of Population" follows up the similar 1971 Census series.

It will be realized that it is not easy to convert dry facts and statistics into flowing narration. Very few indeed can be gifted with the talent of a Jawaharlal Nehru or a C. Rajagopalachari or a Hendrikvan Loon or a Minoo Masani for writing about history or mythology or economics in an

absorbing, story-telling style. It has also to be appreciated that my colleagues have undertaken this work in the midst of a very mundane and busy office routine.

I thank them and all those who have collaborated with them in this project and hope that these volumes will serve their intended purpose. The credit for getting the 1981 Census conducted and for getting all the data garnered and put through the initial processing in the first instance goes, of course, to my illustrious predecessor, Shri P. Padmanabha and the very able band of Directors of Census Operations for the Census.

VIJAY S. VERMA
Registrar General, India.

NEW DELHI,
July 4, 1988.

PREFACE

One of the novel feature of the Census Publications is the attempt to bring out the present volume to cater to the growing need for the basic data collected during 1981 Census. Indian Census is a mine of informations. But the general readers including students hardly derive any benefit from the forbiddingly voluminous census reports and tables. It is with a view to catering for this group of readers that this little volume 'A Portrait of Population' has been prepared. It has been written in a simple and non-technical language.

It was late Shri A. Chandra Sekhar, former Registrar General & Census Commissioner of 1971 Census who first gave an idea of bringing out 'Portrait of Population' for each State/Union Territory at the time of 1971 Census. Encouraged by the response of general readers to that publication it has been desired by Shri V. S. Verma, Registrar General, India to revive this publication at the 1981 Census also.

The Director of Census Operations, Shri A. P. Muthuswami, IAS, under whose guidance the entire operations were carried out deserves all credit for the success of the operations. But he had to leave the organisation for taking up important assignment before the volume in question could be made ready for the press. I record my deepest sense of gratitude to Shri P. Padmanabha, Ex-Registrar General, India and Shri V. S. Verma, Registrar General, India for their valuable guidance and sincere help to us at every stage to bring out this publication in time. I also thank the officers and staff of the Data Processing Division, Census Division and Printing Division of the Office of the Registrar General, India associated with this task. The processing of the data was

undertaken by the Data Processing Division of the Registrar General's Office under the able guidance of S Shri A. Sen Gupta, Joint Director (Data Processing) and K. R. Unni, Joint Director (Programming) with the help of their staff.

I thank Shri N. Rama Rao, Assistant Registrar General (C&T) and his colleagues S/Shri R. P. Tomar, V. P. Rustagi, Deputy Directors and Babu Lal, Assistant Director who have taken great pains to go through the draft and suggested various changes in the write-up.

I am also grateful to my office colleagues who have laboured hard to bring out this publication, particularly Shri R. Narayanan, Assistant Director who has done his best to prepare the write-up. Shri T. S. Rajaram, Investigator prepared preliminary draft for three chapters. The tables and statements contained in this publication were prepared by Smt. R. Rani Bai and Shri R. Prakash, Statistical Assistants and Shri K. Madhavan, Computor under the guidance of Smt. M. V. Rajalakshmi, Tabulation Officer. The charts, diagrams, maps etc. were prepared by S/Shri A. Rajamani, Senior Artist, N. Chandran and E. S. Jayamohan, Artists under the supervision of Shri R. Joseph, Cartographer. The brunt of typing the manuscript and the tables fell on the shoulders of Smt. D. V. Lakshmi, LDC. I express my deep sense of gratitude to all of them and to many others in my office who gave me unstinted cooperation in this venture.

MADRAS,
22-8-88

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

General

Though the word 'Census' is widely known, in reality, not many people are aware of the real significance and purport of this decennial exercise in our country. Gone are the days when Censuses were considered as mere head-counts. Nowadays, a variety of particulars on the quality of human wealth is carefully gathered in this periodical stock-taking called 'Census', and it has thus become a basic source of population statistics in every country. Census also is unique in that it encompasses every individual, irrespective of sex, age, caste or creed, social status and occupation. Not all of us have the right to vote and only adult males and females beyond a fixed age can vote, under the law. Only certain sections of the people are required to pay taxes like income-tax, house-tax, etc. But, census as a nation-wide survey covers every human species living at the fixed reference period. It is thus the privilege of everyone to be covered and enumerated at a population census and it is also vital that everyone is counted without omission or duplication, as our development plans are based on these statistics provided by census.

Portrait

It is generally said that one in every seven of the population of the world is an Indian. The population of the world to-day (mid 1984) is nearly 4,700 million out of which India accounts for 685 million. The ratio of Indian population to that of the world is thus 1 : 7. This no doubt gives us an idea of the size of the country's population. The population of Tamil Nadu forms part of the country's population and its size can be inferred from the fact that one out of about every fourteen persons in India belongs to Tamil Nadu. Apart from the size of population, we ought to know other interesting information as to how many of us are males and females, how many are literates and illiterates, the extent of young and old people, working and non-working population, the mother-tongues spoken, the religions followed by people, etc., etc. These variegated characteristics and features go to make up the profile or a portrait of the population. A portrait of the population of Tamil Nadu as revealed by the latest population census of 1981 is presented in this book. The

voluminous census data are presented in a number of reports and tables and it is difficult for a person to scan through the various census volumes, which not only is quite a time-consuming process but is difficult to understand. This book has, therefore, been designed to present certain important and interesting details of the 1981 Census in Tamil Nadu in a manner easily understandable by both the common people and the student community.

Need for Census

Every country and Government—whatever be the type, desires to progress rapidly and provide for its people all the basic necessities and besides improve the quality of their living standards. Towards achieving material prosperity, planned economic development has come to be recognised by every nation as an essential step. For the preparation of economic plans, we need reliable statistics on the different characteristics of the population. 'Census' of the population has come to be recognised as the basic source of statistics for a large variety of economic aspects—growth and distribution of population, man-power potential, employment in the different sectors, urbanisation, occupational trends and industrial structure of the employed, literacy, migration, fertility, family size, housing and urban amenities, economic aspects of the weaker sections of the community like Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the like.

More schools and colleges are required to be opened to improve educational opportunities and also to eradicate illiteracy. The number of such educational institutions and their location will have to be decided on the basis of children of school-going age and students seeking college admission. New industrial units are set up, taking into account not only availability of raw materials and other infra-structural facilities, but also the availability of skilled and unskilled labour force in a locality. Provision of new hospitals, dispensary facilities as also the laying of roads/railways and other communication facilities like post and telegraph offices, water supply and sanitary services, in short, every conceivable welfare scheme is finalised only after considering the population to be benefited by such schemes. Both in the planning for production and marketing as also the distribution of goods and services, industrial and commercial undertakings make use of census data. Census data are found indispensable for market research and for a number of other sample studies undertaken by research scholars and institutions census provides a basic frame.

Census data are sought to determine the size of Parliament and State Legislatures as also to delineate the constituencies for the legislative and parliamentary elections. The utility of a periodical population enumeration has been much appreciated now and practically every civilized nation of the world conducts a census operation at fixed intervals, mostly of a decade. In census, a lot of information is gathered through a series of questions pertaining to age, marital status, religion, literacy, mother tongue, economic activity, fertility, migration, etc. A census schedule or questionnaire containing a number of questions is used for this purpose. All efforts are taken to ensure that no individual is omitted to be covered at the appointed period and none is also counted twice. The census thus is like a photograph of the population at a fixed point of time. The census schedules are processed carefully and the required tables generated after which the results are published in the form of reports and tables. The scope of census has considerably widened in the modern era and there is an increasing thirst for collection of more and more individual and household data through census from time to time. Census is now a carefully organised scientific enquiry, providing the basic tools for governmental administration.

A Brief History of Census

Census dates back to the first or second century B.C. when the Magistrates of ancient Rome ('Censors', as they were called) were required to prepare population registers for imposing taxes and for conscription or compulsory military services. More than 2000 years ago, 'Kautilya', in his monumental treatise "Arthasastra"—a book on State-craft prescribed the collection of population statistics as a measure of state policy for the purpose of taxation. The old census objectives were not popular and in the medieval period, censuses were almost given up. The modern welfare states which came into being in the last 200-300 years required statistics for educational, health and other social welfare projects. The collection of population statistics for developmental purposes, rather than to serve the limited ends of State needs, was realised and the 'Census' in the modern sense of the term was begun around the 17th-18th centuries. The confidentiality of the individual census information returned in census was also guaranteed and the census publications carried information collectively on population. Canada and the Scandinavian countries were among the earliest to attempt a systematic census enumeration in the modern sense of the term, though in Canada a regular decennial census commenced only in 1851. The United States of America started its first census in 1790 and is having

since then an unbroken decennial census. Great Britain began conducting census from 1801. In the last two or three decades, many African, Asian and Latin American countries have started conducting periodical census counts, the countries having increased in number in 1950s, partly because of the United Nations programme, 'World Census of 1950' and later in 1960. More than 150 countries covering practically the entire world are now conducting population censuses.

Census in India

Our country has built up a rich tradition in the conduct of censuses and has been compiling valuable data on population in every census. Beginning from 1871 when the first systematic census on a country-wide basis was attempted, India has the distinction of being in the galaxy of those few countries which have had an unbroken series of decennial censuses spanning over a hundred years. The census of India has come to be acknowledged as the single authentic and comprehensive source of information about our country and its population.

In India, the British East India Company made several estimates of the population of the local areas under their possession in the country even from the middle of the 17th century. However, it was only in 1871 that a beginning to conduct regular census was made. The first Imperial census under the British rule in 1872 was not synchronous and was in fact a compilation of the enumerations spread over the five-year period, 1867 to 1872. This census did not cover the entire country also. A uniform census schedule covering questions on social, economic and demographic characteristics was however adopted and it can be said to have laid the foundation for the conduct of modern censuses in the country. The 1881 census covered the whole country and was synchronous. Since then census has become a regular feature and is conducted once in 10 years on an all-India basis without interruption. Even during 1941 when there was Second World War (1939-45), the census enumeration was done in our country.

The census of 1951 was the first to be carried out in independent India. The scope and content of census was significantly improved during 1961 when a number of ancillary studies on the socio-economic characteristics of the population was conducted. The censuses of 1971 and 1981 have made further strides both in data collection as well as processing and tabulation. Scientific sampling techniques have been introduced in the recent censuses

and latest electronic data processing techniques are used with a view to achieve both speed and accuracy in the compilation of data.

Census count in Tamil Nadu

After the States, reorganisation on linguistic basis, the new unilingual Madras State with Tamil as the language of the majority people was born on 1st November 1956 and the State was re-named TAMIL NADU since January 14, 1969. It is situated at the southern end of the Indian peninsula. Tamil Nadu is bounded on the north by the States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, on the east by the Bay of Bengal, on the west by the Kerala State and on the South by the Indian ocean. Pondicherry and Karaikal, the two bigger Areas (out of the four Areas) of the Union Territory of Pondicherry are in the sea coast of Tamil Nadu and are encircled by the two districts of Tamil Nadu viz., South Arcot and Thanjavur. With an area extending to 130.058 Sq. km., the State is divided into sixteen districts for administrative purposes. The State ranks seventh in population among the 31 States and Union Territories of the country, the population being 48.41 million as per 1981 Census.

As early as 1687 AD, the British East India Company made an assessment of the population of their Madras settlement and it included the population of Fort St. George and the surrounding villages. The population then was only three lakhs; but the area covered as well as the method of computation are not clear. The British administration periodically counted the population of the State in the years 1802, 1822, 1826, 1831, 1837, 1851, 1856, 1861 and 1866. But, these were not done on the pattern of a modern census enumeration. In the census of 1871, questions on age, caste religion, occupation, education and infirmity were included in the schedule. The second Imperial Census was conducted in 1881 and from then on, a decennial census is being taken regularly, the last census being that of 1981.

The Census count

'Census' is quite a gigantic operation and therefore requires much advance planning. A successful census count should cover every human being, without omission and to achieve this objective lots of preparatory steps are taken. The census is carried out in two phases. In the first census, house-numbering and house-listing is done a few months ahead of census. Apart from details about the use of census houses, and other allied particulars, the

number of houses and the approximate number of persons residing in the households are also elicited through houselisting in a separate schedule and this helps very much in planning for the main census. At the 1981 census, houselist was canvassed in Tamil Nadu during July-August 1980, i.e. six months ahead of census. Another significant feature of 1981 census was the inclusion of a schedule entitled 'Enterprise list' along with census houselisting and this was part of the Economic census, organised periodically by the Central Statistical Organisation throughout the country.

How is a census enumeration done? Since enumeration cannot obviously be done at a fixed time or day in all the places, it is generally spread out over a period of time. It was done for about three weeks before the reference date in the last few censuses. During this period, all the enumerators undertake door-to-door enquiry simultaneously in the blocks allotted to them and complete the work by the stipulated date. Each enumerator is assigned an area, say a village or part of a village in rural areas or streets or portions of streets of wards in urban areas, known as an enumerator block, covering approximately about 150 households. The entire State is divided into compact enumerator blocks without omitting any area (not even forests) and one person has been generally asked to cover the census work relating to one enumerator block. Thus, an army of enumerating staff was put on the job of covering the entire state for the census.

In the 1981 census, 77,562 part-time enumerators were engaged for the field work in Tamil Nadu. For every four or five enumerator blocks, (each block covering 600-750 population), a supervisor is appointed and there were 16,844 supervisors. These officials were mostly teachers and other clerical level staff of State Government and local bodies, besides Central Government staff. Supervisors were appointed from among the higher category of staff. They were all paid a fixed honorarium for the field work and also some allowances in connection with their training classes, besides concessions in the working hours in their respective offices during the field operations.

The actual census in 1981 was spread over 20 days commencing from 9th February 1981 and upto and inclusive of 28th February 1981. The reference period was fixed as sunrise of 1st March 1981 which signifies that the population relates to this flash point of time. The reference time of sunrise of 1st March was previously followed in the censuses of 1941, 1951 and 1961 and was changed to sunrise of 1st April for the 1971 census

due to the conduct of general elections to Parliament and State Assemblies. During the revisional round of 5 days, i.e. March 1-5, 1981, the enumerators made a quick revisit of the respective areas allotted to them to take into account fresh arrivals, new births and deaths that could have occurred in any household since the first visit and before the sunrise on the reference date, and prepared fresh schedules. In the case of persons who were earlier enumerated but who died prior to sunrise of 1st March 1981, the filled-in schedules were cancelled. Thus, the schedules were updated to the fixed time of the reference period and took into consideration all the new births, deaths, arrival of visitors who might not have been enumerated anywhere etc., before sunrise of 1st March 1981. Those events that occurred after this point of time were excluded from the purview of 1981 census.

Who were counted and where were they covered?

The census enumerators ascertained the required answers and recorded them in the census schedules by visiting every home and after meeting a responsible member of the household, if not the head of the household. Thus, the people were contacted in their residence and not in other places like workspots or places of congregation etc., Normal residents who were either present or temporarily absent and were expected to return before the end of the enumeration period were covered in their households by the enumerator. When a normal resident of a household was absent throughout the enumeration period, he/she was enumerated at the place where the individual was actually found during this period as a visitor and not at the place of his/her normal residence. Such individuals were cautioned not to get enumerated again if they moved out of the place where they were enumerated. Visitors were enumerated at the places where they were found during the period of enumeration, provided they were not likely to return to their normal place of residence before the reference date, and had not been enumerated elsewhere. Inmates of institutional households, in which unrelated persons reside together, like hostels, jails, orphanages, ashrams, mutts, etc., were also covered likewise. Houseless persons like beggars, vagrants, nomads, etc. were enumerated on the night of February 28, 1981 after ensuring that they were not covered elsewhere.

Census hierarchy

'Census' is a Union subject and it is organised under the authority of the Census Act of 1948 (Central Act XXXVII of

1948). The Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India is the Officer at the helm of the Census Organisation. As the Officer in over-all charge of the census work, he co-ordinates, guides and supervises the entire work of the decennial census throughout India. At his instance, Directors of Census Operations are appointed in the States and Union Territories to assist him in the conduct of census work in their respective areas.

Before the 1961 Census, there was no permanent census organisation in our country. Prior to each census, a Census Commissioner was used to be appointed by the Government. He planned the census operations, appointed the State Superintendents and other required personnel in the States, organised the enumeration and tabulated the data and prepared the reports. The census organisation was then fully wound up and it was thought of again only before the next census. Since 1961, however, we have a nucleus staff set-up which continue during the inter-censal period also. There is now a permanent census set-up at the centre and in the States and Union Territories.

At the district level, the Collectors are notified as the Census Officers to oversee the census work in the entire district. The Commissioners of Municipal Corporations are also designated as the Census Officers and they are responsible for the census work within the Corporation limits. The Tahsildars and Municipal Commissioners are the Census Charge Officers and they ensure that every village, town or ward, street etc. is covered for census purposes and that no area including forests is omitted to be included. Enumerator blocks of about 600—750 persons are carved out ensuring that the limits of these blocks are clear and do not cut across the boundaries of villages or panchayats and wards of towns and these blocks are allotted to the enumerators. The census charge officers appoint the enumerators and supervisors. At the lowest level of the census hierarchy, it is the enumerator, who is responsible for the census work in his jurisdiction. Nearly, 80,000 enumerator blocks were formed in Tamil Nadu during 1981 Census of which around 53,000 belonged to rural areas and the rest were in the urban areas. The area included in each enumerator block was generally allotted to one enumerator and it was well defined, i.e. without omission or duplication of houses. Even cantonments and military areas were included for census purposes by forming special census charges and Charge Officers and supervisors/enumerators were appointed to cover these places. The honoraria and fixed allowances which were given to all the personnel appointed in connection with the census work

were more in the form of out of pocket allowances and not a sort of *'quid pro quo'* for the work done for census. The work was, however, done with great zeal and enthusiasm, more as a labour of love and as a national task cast upon them. The 1981 census work was executed in Tamil Nadu by all the concerned personnel with an eye on accuracy as also timely completion. The success of this big decennial operations depends on the whole-hearted co-operation of both the enumerators and the enumerated (i.e. the people) and this was forthcoming in a good measure, which contributed to the success of the 1981 census.

Census Schedules

The Schedules that were canvassed during the 1981 census were the following:

1. Houselist
2. Household Schedule, and
3. Individual Slip

The first schedule was canvassed in July-August, 1980, and the other two during Feb.-March, 1981. In the Houselist apart from the details of building, house and household number, the purpose for which the house is used, name of the head of the household and number of persons normally residing in the household by sex were gathered. In addition, information about the number of physically handicapped persons under the three categories of totally blind, crippled and dumb were also gathered in connection with the observance of 1981 as the International Year for the Disabled. An Enterprise List was also canvassed during houselisting, as part of Economic Census.

In the Household Schedule, apart from the basic details of every member of the household, a variety of questions like predominant material of wall roof and floor, drinking water supply and electricity connection as also toilet facility (in urban areas), number of living rooms, number of married couples in the household, ownership of the house, etc. were collected.

The 'Individual Slip' is, however, the main census schedule through which data are gathered about every person. The number of questions included in the 1981 census Individual Slip was 16. Apart from these questions which were canvassed in all areas, an additional six questions on migration and fertility were put to people living in selected 20 per cent of the blocks.

The details of the questions included in the 1981 Individual Slip are given below.—A specimen copy of this schedule is appended at the end of this volume.

IN ALL AREAS

1. Name
2. Relationship to head
3. Male/Female
4. Age
5. Marital status
6. Mother tongue
7. Two other languages known
8. Religion
9. Whether Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe?
10. Name of caste/tribe
11. Literate/Illiterate
12. Educational attainment
13. Attending school/college
14A. Worked any time at all last year?
14B. If yes in 14-A, did you work for major part of last year?
15A. Main activity last year
15B. Any other work any time last year (if yes in 14-B) / work done any time last year (if No in 14-B)
16. Whether seeking/available for work (if No in 14-A & 14-B)

IN SAMPLE AREAS ONLY

1. Birth place—(a) Place of birth
   (b) Rural/Urban (c) District (d) State/Country
2. Last Residence—(a) Place of last residence
   (b) Rural/Urban (c) District (d) State/Country
3. Reasons for migration from place of last residence (code)
4. Duration of residence at the village or town of enumeration

5. For all ever-married women only:
   (a) Age at marriage
   (b) Number of children surviving at present
   Male: Female: Total:
   (c) Number of children ever born alive
   Male: Female: Total:
6. For currently married women only:
   Any child born alive during the last one year.

Processing the data

The basic census data are tabulated manually. The compilation of the 'Primary Census Abstract' of 1981 census was done manually in nine regional offices of Tamil Nadu and most of the analysis in this volume relate to this data. The important tables like general economic tables, social and cultural tables, migration tables, fertility tables, household tables, etc. have been published separately after mechanical processing of sample schedules. Reports and tables on the basis of 1981 census have been brought out in a number of volumes covering the above aspects and these are published for all India level and also each State/ Union Territory, separately. For a detailed study of the individual characteristics, the readers may refer to the appropriate census volume.

With this background about this great statistical exercise undertaken every decade, we shall go to present the basic characteristics of the people of Tamil Nadu in the succeeding chapters. That Tamil Nadu has a population of 48.41 million conveys us nothing more than a statistical skeleton, so to say. But, everyone would like to know the various components like sex composition, how many of us can read and write, where do the people live, how many are economically active and are employed, what are their religions, languages, etc. The image about the population will be complete only with these and we have attempted to present this in this book.

CHAPTER II

HOW MANY ARE WE?

We have had an idea on the mechanics of the census count and how census is similar to a snap shot of the entire population, taken at a particular point of time. Everyone of us is interested in knowing about the total number of our species in our land, the various States/Union Territories and their administrative divisions, places of concentration, the current rate at which our number is increasing, etc. We are able to have a detailed picture or portrait from census operation and shall presently see in this chapter about some of our basic characteristics like population distribution, density, growth, etc.

Population of India

India is the second most populous country of the world, after China, which, with nearly 1,032 million population (as in 1982) has the distinction of being the first. According to the Census of India, 1981, the total population of India is 685.18 million and this represents the total of all the 22 constituent States and 9 Union Territories of the Indian Union. Barring certain inaccessible and snow-bound areas in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim and certain parts of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the 1981 Census enumeration was synchronous in the rest of the country, with the reference date as sunrise of 1st March 1981. Census in the State of Jammu and Kashmir took place two months later because of unfavourable weather conditions. The census of 1981 could not be conducted in Assam, owing to disturbed conditions prevailing there at the time of the census, and the above figure of India's population includes the projected population of Assam.

World Population

According to an estimate the population of the whole world in 1981 was around 4,500 million. With 685 million in our country, we contribute nearly 15 per cent to the total world population. It is, therefore, generally remarked that every seventh individual of the world is an Indian. The distribution of the population among the States and in the districts/taluks, etc., within each State or Union Territory is quite uneven, as we will be observing in the following paragraphs. Some of the States of India are much bigger in population than even many countries in Asia and Africa. Uttar Pradesh, for example, with

a population of 110.9 million is quite a big State and it is comparable to Japan, which has a population of 117 million. This populous State of India has more population than even the neighbouring countries of Bangladesh (87.05 million) or Pakistan (83.78 million) or the two European countries of Great Britain (55.67 million) and France (54.33 million) put together. There are only six countries which have more population than Uttar Pradesh and these are China (1,032 million), United States of America (227 million), Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (262 million), Indonesia (162 million), Japan (117 million) and Brazil (134 million). The population of Tamil Nadu itself can be compared to that of Egypt (47 million), Turkey (50 million) or Thailand (52 million). Tamil Nadu has got more population than a large majority of the countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. The State's human resources are in fact three times that of Australia (15.5 million) or German Democratic Republic (16.7 million) or Czechoslovakia (15.5 million).

Comparison of Tamil Nadu's population with that of India and other States

The total population of Tamil Nadu, as on 1st March, 1981, is 48,408,077. It may perhaps be difficult for some of the readers to visualize or even imagine this huge number. To illustrate, let us consider big long-distance trains with 15-20 carriages or more, each carrying nearly 1,000 persons at a time which should be very familiar to most of us. A thousand trains, each carrying 1,000 passengers makes one million and nearly 48 times the population carried by 1,000 such trains would make 48 million people. Or, one may be familiar with habitation in villages. The average village in Tamil Nadu can be said to consist of some 400-500 families, each family consisting roughly of about five members. If an averege village of say 500 families could be imagined, then 400 such villages would add up to nearly one million population and nearly fifty times the total of such groups of 400 villages (each with 500 families) would make roughly the population of Tamil Nadu.

Of the 22 States and nine Union Territories of the country, Tamil Nadu holds the seventh rank in the order of population. The first six States having more population than Tamil Nadu are (1) Uttar Pradesh (2) Bihar (3) Maharashtra (4) West Bengal (5) Andhra Pradesh and (6) Madhya Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh (110.9 million population) and Bihar (69.9 million population) account for a little over one-fourth of the country's population. The population of the State of Uttar Pradesh is more than double that of Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu accounts for 7.06 per cent of India's population. The first seven highly populated States including

Tamil Nadu have about two-thirds of India's population in them. The big three, viz., Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra alone account for over one-third (35.54 per cent) of India's population. Among the four southern States, Andhra Pradesh has the highest population (53.5 million) and it is followed by Tamil Nadu (48.4 million), Karnataka (37.1 million) and Kerala (25.5 million). The Union Territory of Pondicherry, the four "Areas" or districts of which are distributed in the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh has a population of 604,471.

Area and population of States/Union Territories

It is interesting to compare the population of the different States and Union Territories with that of the country and compare them with reference to their land area. The total area of the country is 3,287,590 square kilometres and this includes the area illegally occupied by Pakistan and China. In area, India is the fifth largest, following USSR (22.4 million sq. kms), Canada (9.98 million sq. kms), China (9.60 million sq. kms) and USA (9.37 million sq. kms). Within India, though Uttar Pradesh is the State with the largest population, viz., 110.86 million, in area, it ranks only fourth, with 294,411 sq. kms. The second populous State in India, viz., Bihar (69.91 million) ranks ninth in area. Maharashtra State, however, has the distinction of holding the same third rank both in population (62.78 million) and area (307,690 sq. kms). Madhya Pradesh which extends over an area of 443,446 sq. kms. is the largest State of India and holds the first rank in area among the 31 States and Union Territories. Rajasthan stands second in rank in regard to area (342,239 sq. kms.), but it ranks ninth in population. The three largest States in regard to area, viz., Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra totally account for nearly one-third of the total area of the country. With an area of 130,058 sq. kms., Tamil Nadu ranks eleventh in area among the States and Union Territories. Its area constitutes 3.96 per cent of the total area of the country.

Considering the 22 States alone, we find that Sikkim has the least population, viz., 316,385. Of the nine Union Territories, Delhi (6.22 million) and Goa, Daman & Diu (1.09 million) alone have over a million population and the rest are all small. The Union Territory of Lakshadweep has the lowest population of 40,249. While four Union Territories have population ranging between one and five lakhs, two Union Territories have each between 5 and 10 lakhs of population. In regard to area also,

Lakshadweep with 32 sq. kms. is the smallest. Chandigarh, another Union Territory is also quite small and it is spread over only 114 sq. kms. The other Union Territories with an area of less than 1,000 sq. kms. each are Pondicherry (492 sq. kms.) and Dadra and Nagar Haveli (491 sq. kms.).

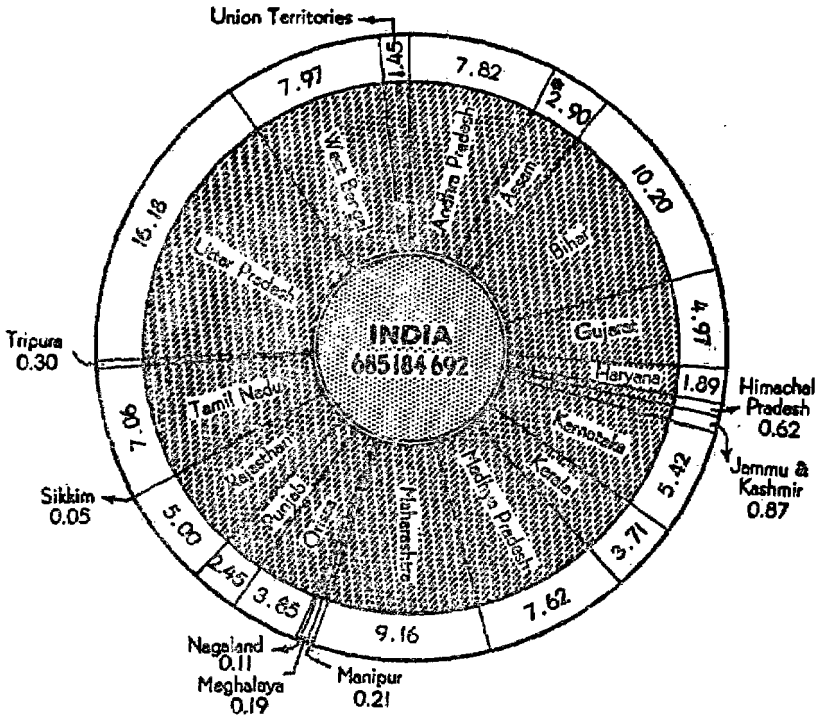
Distribution of Population within Tamil Nadu

The State had 16 districts at the time of 1981 Census. While some districts are highly populated, others have fewer persons. We all know that more population live in places which are prosperous in agriculture and/or industry and less number inhabit forest and dry areas. In Tamil Nadu, Madurai district has the highest population of 4.54 million among the 16 districts. It has 9.37 per cent of the State's total population. There are three other big districts, each having a population exceeding 4 million and these are North Arcot (4.41 million), South Arcot (4.20 million) and Thanjavur (4.06 million). These are all districts well known for agriculture. Madras district, which is a City district (without any rural area) and whose boundary is conterminous with that of the Municipal Corporation of Madras, has a population of 3.28 million. This metropolis extends over an area of 170 sq. kms. and it ranks fourth in population in the country after Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi.

The mountainous district of Nilgiri has the lowest population among the districts with 630,169. The two other districts in Tamil Nadu which have comparatively lower population are Kanniyakumari (1.42 million) and Pudukkottai (1.16 million).

Let us now consider the area of the different districts. While Madras district has the smallest area of 170 sq. kms. among the 16 districts, Madurai district is the largest and it is spread over 12,624 sq. kms. Ramanathapuram is the second largest district and it extends over 12,590 sq. kms. This district has now been trifurcated (in 1984) and made into three independent districts—Ramanathapuram, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam and Kamarajar districts. North Arcot district is also very big in area and is spread over 12,268 sq. kms. The other big districts extending over 10,000 sq. kms. of area are South Arcot, Tiruchchirappalli and Tirunelveli. Madurai and Tirunelveli districts have also been bifurcated after 1981 and two new districts namely Anna and Chidambaranar districts have been constituted. Tirunelveli district which stands pruned has been renamed as Tirunelveli Kattabomman district. The average area of a district in Tamil Nadu is 8,129 sq. kms. and this compares favourably with the average district area for the country as a whole,

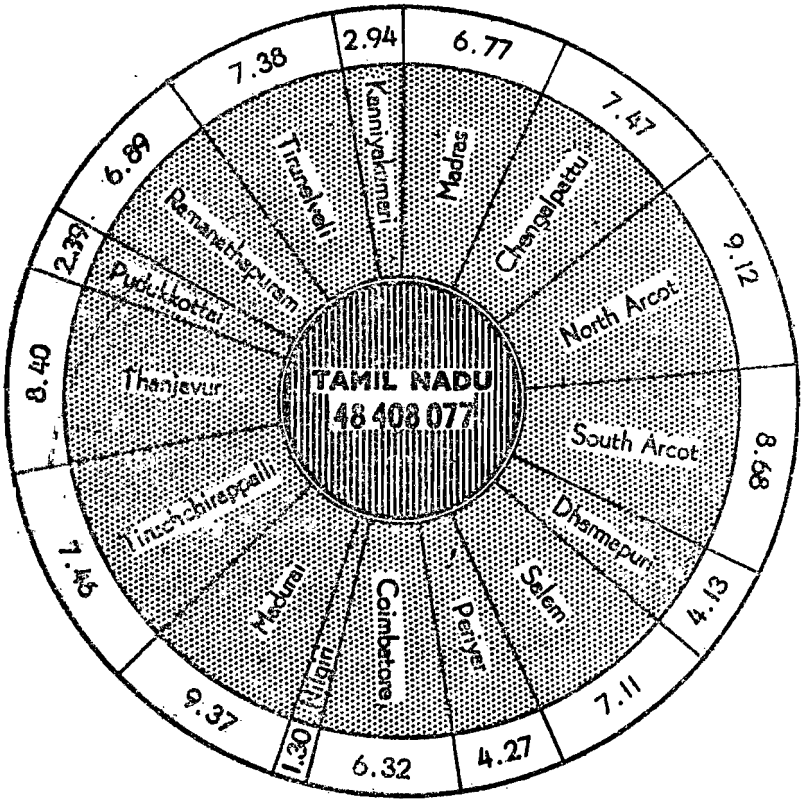
POPULATION-INDIA AND STATES, 1981



PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION IS SHOWN IN BETWEEN THE CIRCLES

* PROJECTED FIGURE

POPULATION-TAMIL NADU AND DISTRICTS, 1981



PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION IS SHOWN IN BETWEEN THE CIRCLES

which works to 7,979 sq. kms. Six districts of the State have less than the average district area and the remaining ten have area above this average on the basis of population, the districts are grouped as under:

Population range	Districts under the range
1. Districts with over 4 million population	North Arcot, South Arcot, Madurai and Thanjavur.
2. Districts with 3 to 4 million population	Madras, Chengalpattu, Salem, Coimbatore, Tiruchchirappalli, Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli.
3. Districts with 1 to 3 million population	Dharmapuri, Periyar, Pudukkottai, and Kanniyakumari.
4. Districts with less than a million population.	Nilgiri.

The four populous districts with over four million population each indicated above account for a little over 35 per cent of the State's population. There are five smaller districts, shown under the last two categories above, which together account for a mere 15 per cent of the State's population. It is obvious from this that the population distribution among the various districts is quite uneven.

Average population of District/Taluk

The average district population, which is easily arrived at by dividing the population of the State by the total number of districts, viz., 16, works to 3.03 million. This figure is quite high when compared with the average district population for India as a whole (with 412 districts), which is only 1.66 million. The highest district average in 1981 among the 22 States is noticed in West Bengal (3.41 million) and Tamil Nadu follows with the second highest average. In 1971 Census also, Tamil Nadu had the second place in average district population with 2.94 million people, among the States. The highest figure then was recorded by Bihar, which had 3.31 million as average district population.

While Madurai district has 4.54 million population as compared to the State's average of 3.03 million per district in 1981,

Nilgiri district with 0.63 million people has hardly one-fifth of the average district population.

There are 151 taluks in Tamil Nadu (excluding the city district of Madras) and the average taluk population is 298,884. The average for taluk is the highest viz., 510,031 in Coimbatore district and lowest in Nilgiri district (157,542). Six of the 15 districts have average taluk population below the State average. The taluk with the largest population in the State is Coimbatore taluk (1.16 million) and it is the only taluk to have a population exceeding one million. The other big taluks with population between 9-10 lakhs are Madurai South, Saidapet and Salem. These taluks have a number of urban centres including cities within their limits. Very small taluks with a limited population in Tamil Nadu are Yercaud (32,746) and Rameswaram (48,188).

Density of population

We have so far considered only the variations in the general distribution of the population by comparing the population of the various States and also that of the districts of Tamil Nadu. But, it has to be remembered that the areas of the different States and also districts, vary considerably West Bengal, for example, whose area is lesser than that of Tamil Nadu, has much more people than Tamil Nadu.

The district of Ramanathapuram holds second rank in area among the State's districts, but falls only 'ninth' in regard to population. Dharmapuri district, which has substantial forest areas, ranks 13th in regard to population, although it ranks seventh in area. It would not, therefore, be realistic to compare the population independently without considering the area.

The question now arises as to how both area and population can be considered together. The calculation of the simple index of 'density' is helpful in this regard. This density is easily obtainable by dividing the population of any state, district, taluk etc., by its extent in sq. km. This gives a very good idea of the concentration of people in different places, with reference to one square kilometre of area and enables easy comparison. Here again, one should not forget that large chunks of thick forests, mountainous regions or dry lands, etc., exist in some districts and these are not geographically hospitable for human habitation and may tend to influence the density of population.

Density in India and States

The density of population in Tamil Nadu in 1981 is 372 persons per sq. km. Compared to the density figure of 216 in the country as a whole, this figure for our State is very

high. In the last 1971 Census, the density in Tamil Nadu was 317. Tamil Nadu now has the fifth highest density among the 22 States of India. Kerala has the highest density among the States with 655 persons for every sq. km. of area. The two other States with very high density figures next to Kerala are West Bengal (615) and Bihar (402). Densities of population for India and all States are given in Table 2.6. Uttar Pradesh, which is the largest State in the country in regard to population and contains nearly 16 per cent of India's total population, has the fourth largest density (377) among the States and it is followed by Tamil Nadu. It had a lower density than Tamil Nadu in the last 1971 Census, and ranked fifth among the States, then. But, due to a higher increase in its population during the 1971-81 decade, it has even surpassed Tamil Nadu, which had the fourth highest density among the States in 1971. Madhya Pradesh, though biggest in area, has quite a low density of 118 and ranks 15th among all the States. This state is sparsely populated due to the existence of large forest and mountainous areas. The States with very low densities of less than 100 in 1981 are Himachal Pradesh (77), Jammu and Kashmir (59), Manipur (64), Meghalaya (60), Nagaland (47) and Sikkim (45), which all have sizable forest and mountainous regions in their respective territories.

Due to over-crowding consequent on immigration, population density is generally found to be higher in the urban areas, i.e., big cities, medium and smaller towns, etc., than in the rural areas. Many of the cities and towns also happen to be the headquarters of districts, divisions or taluks. Such urban centres have facilities for higher education and besides have industrial and business houses. They command good transport and communication network and have hospitals and other medical centres. Lot of migration into the urban areas in search of jobs, higher education or business opportunities, etc., from the villages is, therefore, taking place. The density in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu is, therefore, very high and stands at 2,722 persons per sq. km. This urban density figure represents over ten times the density of 261 persons per sq. km. recorded in the villages or rural areas of Tamil Nadu.

Density in the districts of Tamil Nadu

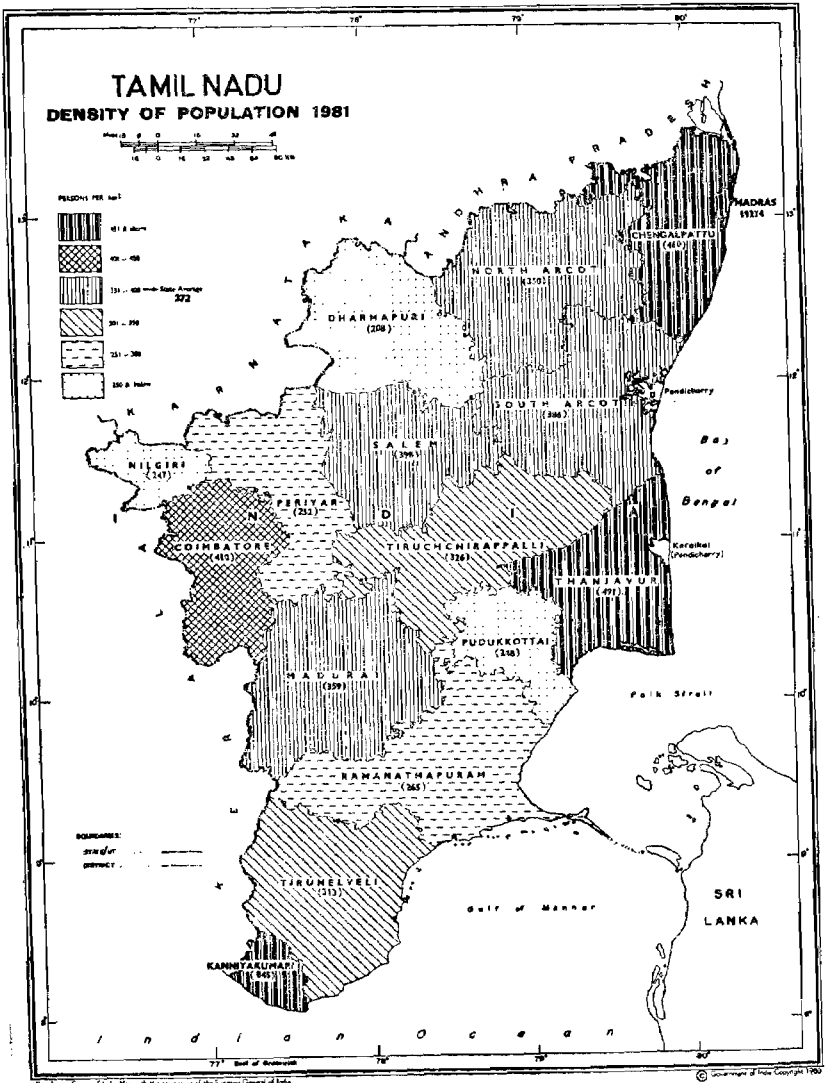
Being the State headquarter town and also a big commercial and industrial centre with a big harbour, Madras District i.e., Madras City, has a very high density of 19,274 persons per sq. km. when compared with the rest of the districts. Madras

City is spread over an area of only 170 sq. kms. and it is the fourth biggest metropolitan city in the country. The other districts with high density are Kanniyakumari (845), Thanjavur (491), Chengalpattu (460) and Coimbatore (410). Density is lowest in Dharmapuri (208) and it is the only district in the State where the population density per sq. km. is lower than that for the country as a whole (216). The other districts of the State with lower density of less than 300 persons per sq. km. are Periyar, Nilgiri, Pudukkottai and Ramanathapuram. The density figures for the State and districts are presented in Table 2.7.

The rural density in the 15 districts varies from 175 per sq. km. in Nilgiri to 718 per sq. km. in Kanniyakumari. The urban density, excluding Madras, is high in Kanniyakumari (5,754) and Madurai (4,067) districts. It is low (432) in the urban areas of Nilgiri district. The population density has enormously increased in Madras in the last 10 years. It was only 15,172 in 1971 and in 1981 it has shot up to 19,274 persons per sq. km. The other districts where the increase registered during the decade 1971-81 alone exceeded 100 are Chengalpattu (356 in 1971 to 460 in 1981) and Kanniyakumari (726 in 1971 to 845 in 1981). The increase in the decade is comparatively low, i.e. less than 35, in the case of Dharmapuri, Periyar and Tirunelveli districts.

Density per sq. km. of cultivated area

The density figures discussed in the foregoing paragraph relate to the entire geographical area, including the area under forests, barren and uncultivable land, land put to non-agricultural uses, pastures and fallow lands. The percentage of the land in the State under the different categories is presented in Table 2.8. When we consider only the net area sown and the land under the miscellaneous tree crops and groves, we find that of the total extent of 1.3 lakh square kilometres of the State, only about 46 per cent are sown. The population density when worked out for this sown area alone would give a more meaningful picture of the extent of population dependent on the cultivated area. The density per sq. km. of cultivated area in the State (59,593 sq. kms.) is 812 and this represents more than double the population density worked for the entire area (viz., 372). In the case of Madras, the entire area being urban, there is no area under cultivation separately and as such density per cultivated area cannot be worked out. Among the other 15 districts, density per sq. km. of cultivated area works to a



Based upon Survey of India Map with the permission of the Surveyor General of India
The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line
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high figure of 1,749 persons in Kanniyakumari district. It is, over 1000 per sq. km. in the case of Chengalpattu (1,119) and Nilgiri (1,079). While Kanniyakumari district is already a dense area, there are more urban areas in Chengalpattu district and a good proportion of forest areas exist in the case of the mountainous Nilgiri district. Low density figures are observed in the case of Dharmapuri district (530) and Ramanathapuram district (546) where there is comparatively more of cultivated area and less of population. With more of economic development, these and certain other districts with comparatively lower density per sq. km. of cultivated area now could possibly support more population.

Where do the people live?

The recorded number of occupied residential houses in the State as per 1981 Census is 9,982,996 and this has increased from 7,708,173 houses in 1971. The percentage increase in the census houses of the State during the decade 1971-81 works to 29.51, as against the population increase of 17.50 per cent in the same period. There are 10,281.002 households in 1981 and this has increased by 19.94 per cent in the 1971-81 decade.

While the 'Census House' represents "a building or part of a building having a separate main entrance from the road or common courtyard or staircase, etc, used or recognised as a separate unit", a household is defined in census as 'a group of persons who commonly live together and take their meals from a common kitchen, unless the exigencies of work prevented any of them from doing so'. The number of households per 100 Census houses works to 103 at State level (vide Table 2.10). Among the districts, a very high ratio of 114 households per every 100 census houses is recorded in North Arcot district, and Kanniyakumari district has the second highest ratio of 108 households. In the districts of Salem, Periyar and Nilgiri, the ratio of households per 100 houses is just above 100 but less than 101, as there are only fewer additional households compared to the total number of occupied census houses. The ratio of households to 100 houses is 104 in urban areas and 102 in the rural areas. We are concerned here only about the houses used for residential purposes, either wholly or partly. Some households share the same house with others and this is due to shortage of adequate houses.

The number of households per sq. km. could also be considered as an important index throwing light on the density of households. This index is also given in Table 2.10. There are 79 households per sq. km. of geographical area in the State in 1981

and this figure was only 66 in 1971. In the highly congested city of Madras, there are 3,704 households per sq. km. The other districts with comparatively higher figures are Kanniyakumari with 165 households in every sq. km., and Thanjavur with 106. Lowest household density of 40 per sq. km. is revealed in Dharmapuri district and 50 in both Nilgiri and Pudukkottai districts. There is variation in household density between the rural and urban areas. While the density in the State's rural areas is 57 households, it is 553 in the urban areas.

Number of persons per household

The number of persons per household is an important index throwing light about the current average family size. Data about this are given in Table 2.11. In the State as a whole, the average number of persons per household works to 4.7 and represents a slight fall from 4.8 recorded in 1971. That the old joint family system consisting of a number of members has given way to small-sized simple families, consisting of husband, wife and their children, is obvious from this. The average household size is the highest, viz., 5.2 in the districts of Madras and Dharmapuri. While it is 5.1 in Kanniyakumari district, it is exactly five in the three districts of North Arcot, Nilgiri and Pudukkottai. The urban household has an average size of 4.9 in the State, as against 4.6 in the rural areas. It is interesting to see that the average family size is higher in urban than in the rural areas. Very small values of 4.1 and 4.3 members per household are found in Periyar and Salem districts respectively. Considering the fact that the large majority of households have only one room, the living conditions in most of the houses leave much scope for improvement. Overcrowding is obvious, particularly in the urban areas. But, these households can still be fortunate when compared with 17,245 households in the State who have no roof over their heads. For these houseless households in the State, the earth is the floor and sky is the roof.

Houseless Population

Apart from persons living in houses, Census has taken into account houseless persons living in the open, such as on the roadside, pavements, in hume pipes, under staircases or in open temple mandaps, platforms, under the trees etc. Compared to 177 houseless persons per lakh of population in the State recorded during the last 1971 Census, the ratio of houseless has declined to 119 per lakh in 1981. The exact number of the houseless population is 57,461 in 1981 as compared to 72,959 in 1971 and 60,352 in 1961. It is indeed a good augury that the number of houseless persons in the State has started declining now as compared to 1961 and 1971.

Houseless persons form a higher ratio in the urban areas than in the rural areas. There are 96 houseless persons per lakh of population in the rural areas and in the urban i.e., cities and towns of the State, this ratio works to 164. Shortage of houses is found to be less in the villages than in cities and towns. Many of the houseless persons are also active wage-earners, working as labourers, factory workers, etc., and are not fully vagabonds or beggars. Attracted by the enormous job opportunities that are increasingly created in the cities and towns, thanks to the setting up of several new factories and industrial establishments as also expansion of existing industrial units, a number of rural workers, both unskilled and semi-skilled migrate to these urban centres. Due to the intense shortage of houses in urban areas such individuals are also often under compulsion to spend their days in the open areas like pavements, pipes, below trees, etc. Such a condition leads to the creation of more and more slum areas where the living conditions of the people are so unhygienic and poor, due to larger number of members depending on fewer civic amenities. Houseless persons are found to be comparatively higher in the districts of Madras and Thanjavur than in others. While 19.89 per cent of the total houseless population of the State are in Thanjavur district, 11.90 per cent of them are found in Madras city.

Living conditions of the houseless population found in the slums of Madras City are indeed very poor when compared to the houseless in the rural areas. The city of Madras is said to have about 1,500 slums which are said to contain about 35 per cent of the total city's population. A slum clearance board created over 15 years ago has been engaged in eradicating slums by the construction of multi-storeyed tenements.

Houseless population per lakh of total population is the highest, viz., 281 in Thanjavur district and Madras has the next highest figure of 209 (vide Table 2.12). Very low ratios of the houseless are recorded in the southern-most districts. 27 per lakh in Kanniyakumari and 51 in Tirunelveli.

Institutional Households and their population

Households with unrelated members like boarding houses, hospitals, messes, hostels, residential hotels, rescue homes, jails, ashrams, etc., are referred to as "Institutional households" in census and as per 1981 Census, there are 318,796 persons living in such institutions in the State. They constitute 659 per every lakh of the State's population. There are 11,292 institutional

households in the State as a whole, and over 1,000 each are in the districts of Coimbatore (1,189), Thanjavur (1,176), Madurai (1,136), Tirunelveli (1,025) and South Arcot (1,007). The ratio of institutional population to the total population is the highest in the hilly Nilgiri district (2,286 per every lakh of population) and this is due to the location of a number of institutions in this small mountainous district, which is a well known tourist resort, noted for its salubrious climatic conditions. The districts of Tirunelveli with 919 institutional population per lakh of persons and Madurai with a ratio of 873 are the other two districts with high ratios. There are only four districts with ratios below 500 and the lowest of 211 is recorded in Dharmapuri district. Institutional households exist in larger numbers in the urban areas than in the rural areas. Of the 11,292 institutional households recorded in census, 7,677 (or 68 per cent) are in cities and towns. Over two-thirds of the inmates of the institutional households are males.

Housing conditions

The earlier discussion about the Census houses and households as also about the houseless population in the State should not be taken to mean that the housing conditions of the people in Tamil Nadu are very good, the households have adequate accommodation and conveniences and that very few families lack the housing facility. The situation is quite far from it. The building or census house in census has a very easy definition concerning walls and roof. But, the type of the material used has to be considered for determining whether a house is 'pucca' or 'katcha'. Irrespective of the fact whether a house is made of flimsy materials like mud and leaves as that of a hut in a slum, or it is a palatial mansion with many rooms and modern amenities, it is considered as a house for census purposes. We are very well aware that majority of the houses in the rural areas are only small huts. In the urban areas too, quite a number of houses are not built with strong wall and roof materials. Many houses are also too small and have only one or two small rooms. Data on these have been gathered in census. Data have also been gathered in the 1981 Census about a few housing facilities like drinking water, electricity connection, toilet facility (for urban households only), besides number of living rooms occupied by each household, construction material of wall, roof and floor, etc. to study the housing conditions. Such data on the facilities in houses as also the predominent construction materials, number of living rooms and facts on the amenities available to the households have been made available in separate volumes, containing

Household Tables. These will throw light on the extent to which the houses are suitable for living.

Growth of Population

The population of any given place keeps changing over a period of time. Everyone knows that the birth of a child adds to the population while a death results in reduction in the number. The excess of births over the deaths causes an increase in the population of an area and this is termed as "natural increase". Another important cause for population variation is the constant movement of people from one village or town to another due to some reason--say, employment, marriage, education, transfer of jobs, etc. This is termed 'migration'. In and out-migrants denote population moving into an area from other areas or moving out of a specified area. Just as births and deaths, the difference between the number of in-migrants into an area during an year and the number of out-migrants from that area to other areas during that year gives the net migration in that year. Considering the country as a whole or even the State, migration may not be very significant and hence it is the inter-action of births and deaths that go to alter the population strength.

Let us now see how the population variation is assessed. The population census in our country (as in most of the countries of the world) is taken once in a decade. The variation is, therefore, worked out for each decade and on that basis is estimated for every year. The population of Tamil Nadu, for example, in 1981 is 48,408,077. This figure shows an increase of 7,208,909 over the 1971 State population of 41,199,168. Worked as percentage to the 1971 population, the increase in the decade works to 17.50 per cent. This percentage increase is termed as decadal growth rate. In the previous decade of 1961-71, the growth rate was 22.30 per cent.

Annual growth rate of population

Based on the ten year growth rate of 17.50 per cent in the last decade, the simple average growth rate of the State can be said to be around 1.75 per cent every year. But, the growth rate is not constant since the population is different and varies every year. The population base on which the growth percentage is worked becomes wider every year and the rate of growth on the compounded population is therefore higher. The geometric growth rate of population is based on the principle similar to the calculation of 'compound interest' (as against the simple interest), used widely in commercial activities. Let us see an example. Suppose there is a place with a population of 25,000

and it grows by two per cent per year. Then, at the end of an year, the population increases to 25,500. When this revised population is fully taken for the next year's growth, the population increase in the subsequent year would be 510 (and not 500) and the total population would then go up to 26,010.

The geometric growth rate for Tamil Nadu during the decade 1971-81 was of the order of 1.63 per cent. For the country as a whole, the geometric growth rate in this period was 2.25 per cent. The world population, which stands at a little over 4,500 million in 1981, is said to be growing at an annual rate of around two per cent. This growth varies widely for the different countries. It is lower for the developed countries, i.e., countries of Europe and North America, as also Australia, Japan and U.S.S.R. It is higher in the other less developed countries—mostly of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Assessment of Population growth

Birth, death and migration are the three factors affecting population growth. While the biological processes of birth and death result in a continuous change every moment, movement of population from one place to the other also result in change. For purposes of economic plans, population projections, that is, estimates of population for the future years are very essential. Such estimates are generally made with reference to the current growth trends and the expected rates of birth and death.

Birth and death rates (per 1,000 population) are worked out with reference to the data on births and deaths, called vital statistics, which are collected from registered data. Registration of every birth and death is compulsory in our country, under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969. However, all the births and deaths are not properly registered and many events are not even brought to the notice of the registering authorities. In the advanced countries, vital statistics are collected systematically and they are very reliable. In our country, there is considerable under registration of these vital events. In spite of attempts to improve the registration system, there are still gaps and the Registrar General, India is implementing a scheme called 'Sample Registration System'. Under this system, all births and deaths in selected sample blocks are continuously recorded through specially appointed part time enumerators and quick and reliable estimates of births and deaths are made for the States and India on the basis of such data.

World Population

It is interesting to know about the total population of the world and how it has been increasing over the past several centuries. It has been estimated that there were only about 10-15 million people in the world at the end of the Stone Age. By the beginning of the christian era, the population was estimated to have increased to about 250 million. It went up to one billion (or 1,000 million) by 1830 and then to two billion by 1925. In 1950, the world population stood at 2,504 million and grew upto 3,014 million in 1960 and 3,683 million in 1970. In 1980, it has been estimated as about 4,453 million. It is expected to cross the five billion mark in the late 80s (in 1988, to be exact) and reach a staggering figure of 6.25 billion (6,250 million) around 2000 AD i.e., the end of the 20th century.

While it took several thousands of years for the world population to reach one billion mark in 1830, it increased by one hundred per cent (to two billion) within the next 100 years. For reaching the three billion level, the time span taken was hardly 35 years. A billion more has been added in the next 15 years or so and at the present rate of increase of about 1.8 per cent annually, one can expect additions of one billion in every 10-15 years. It is obvious even to laymen from the above figures that not only has there been a large multiplication in population in the recent 3-4 centuries, but the multiplication itself has been at an accelerating rate. Nearly, 130 million babies are born now every year all over the world and this works out to about 356,000 per day or 15,000 per hour or 250 per minute. Nearly, 50-55 million persons of all age groups also die every year and this leaves a net addition of around 80 million, annually. With such an enormous addition to the human race, every country has necessarily to accommodate and feed more and more individuals, look after their clothing, housing, education etc. etc. There is a limitation to the availability of natural resources and they become fewer and scarce with more additions to population. This is what is generally termed as "population explosion" and it is feared by demographers (population experts) that the situation may soon be reached, when we cannot afford to have further additions at all. At the present increase of around 75-80 million per annum, the world population is expected to double itself in the next 40 years and reach around 9-10 billion.

The rate of population increase is not the same in all parts of the globe. While the population growth is rapid in some areas, it is slow in some others. In the economically developed countries, the growth of population is comparatively lower.

The present annual growth ratio in the developed countries, put together, is only 0.6 per cent. The rate in the developing countries is, however, far higher, viz., 2.1 per cent. If we exclude China, this rate is even higher, viz., 2.4 per cent annually, as China's growth rate now is only 1.3 per cent. Many of the less developed and developing countries have high growth rates of two to three per cent per year. Sizable population of the world is concentrated in the poor and developing countries of Asia and Africa and their faster increase would, therefore, cause anxiety. The developed countries with a natural increase of 0.6 per cent per year would need 112 years to double their population of about 1,000 million, while the less developed countries (with 2.1 per cent growth) would double in the next 33 years from 3,500 million to 7,000 million. The less developed countries are expected to have an increased share of nearly 80 per cent of the total world population in 2000 AD, as against their present share of about 75 per cent.

Economically advanced countries also were having higher birth rates in the past. But along with advancement, the death rates declined and the birth rates also eventually dropped. This process is termed as 'demographic transition'.

India's population growth

The population of our country has been growing quite rapidly in the last few decades. Till about 1850 AD, however, the increase was only marginal and prior to this period the increase was indeed very low. There were then a number of famines, scarcities and epidemics and these took away large chunks of the population. Even during the British rule, which started around the middle of the seventeenth century, the growth of population was impeded by periodical visitations of famines.

The population of the country was estimated to be around 100 million even a few years before the end of the 16th century. The population of India around 1600 AD was estimated by Mr. Kingsley Davis as 125 million. According to him, this figure more or less remained at the same level till about 1750 AD. The population was estimated to have gone up to 175 million in 1855 AD and further to 194 million in 1867 AD. From 1871 onwards, when systematic decennial censuses were begun, we have a fairly correct assessment of the population. India's population in every census from 1901, along with the decennial growth rate, is available in Table 2.13. In the course of 80 years, 1901-81, the country's population has jumped from 238.4 million to 685.2 million, representing an increase of 187

per cent. Upto 1940, the growth was not high because of high death rates, consequent on calamities like droughts, floods as also epidemics like cholera, small pox, plague, malaria etc., which were all much dreaded diseases and broke out periodically when millions of people fell as victims. During 1911-21, there was indeed a decline in the population due to the great influenza epidemic. Thanks to spectacular strides in health care and better communication and transport facilities, the impact of famines and dreadful diseases decreased gradually. The death rates began declining after this period. There was also tremendous increase in agricultural production due to the introduction of new and modern techniques in agriculture. It was obviously due to these reasons that the 1951 Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Mr. R.A. Gopalaswami described 1921 as the "Great Divide" in the realm of population growth.

As may be observed from Table 2.13, the decadal percentage increase has been higher after the 1921 census. From the range of 10-20 per cent in the decades upto 1951, the increase is greater, above 20 per cent since 1951-61. Since the Independence and particularly after the advent of economic planning through implementation of five year plans, we have achieved a significant decrease in the death rates. The increase in the last two decades of 1961-71 and 1971-81 is more or less the same, viz., 25 per cent, and this points to the tremendous improvement in public health and sanitary conditions.

Birth and Death rates and future projection

There has been a fall in the birth and death rates in recent years. The decrease is noteworthy in the case of death rates. The country's birth rate has fallen from 49.2 per 1000 population during 1901-11 to 36.9 in 1971 and 33.9 in 1981. The death rate was 42.6 during 1901-11, 14.9 in 1971 and 12.5 in 1981. Thus, a sharp decline in mortality with a high birth rate has resulted in a steeper increase in population. The increase now is around two per cent per annum. Unless measures are taken to bring down the birth rate to manageable levels in the coming few years, the population is bound to grow much faster.

The 1981 population of 685.2 million has revealed that even the projected population for 1981 (of 672.0 million) made by an Expert Committee appointed by the Government of India has been exceeded by 13.2 million. The projections are made by this committee after making certain assumptions on fertility and mortality trends, impact of fertility-control measures like protection of couples for family planning, etc.

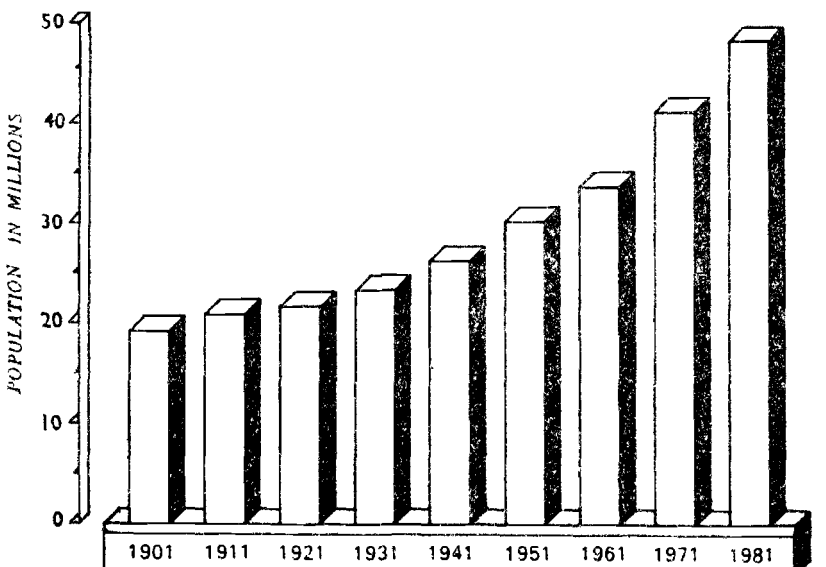
What will be the population of India by 1991 and 2001 AD? Everyone is interested in knowing these figures. It is considered very difficult to make correct predictions, particularly when both fertility and mortality are showing decline and when a massive family welfare (or planning) drive is under way. However, with reference to the present indications of the fertility-mortality trend and certain other assumptions on fertility-control, the Registrar General, India has forecast India's population to be 836.5 million in 1991 and 991.5 million in 2001 AD (medium projection). For decadal variation of total population in India since 1901-1981, see table 2.13.

Population of Tamil Nadu

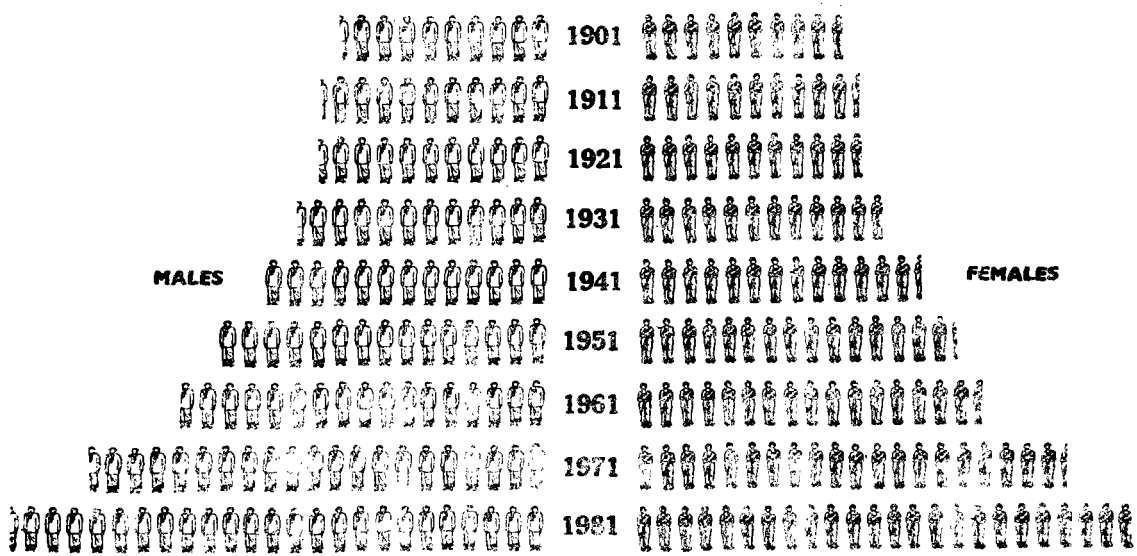
Tamil Nadu had a population of only 19.3 million in 1901. The present 1981 population of 48.4 million shows that it has grown by 151 per cent in the last 80 years. Compared to the all-India growth rate of 187 per cent in the same period, the growth is lower in this State. Though in two or three decades since 1901 the growth rates of Tamil Nadu are above those of India, if we look at the decadal percentage variations from 1951-61 onwards, we notice the consistently lower growth of Tamil Nadu than that of the country. In the recent decade of 1971-81, it is indeed significant that the decadal increase of 17.50 per cent in Tamil Nadu is the lowest compared to every other State and Union Territory in the country. The growth rate of the State recorded in the decade of 1961-71 (22.30 per cent) was almost double that recorded in the previous decade of 1951-61 (11.85 per cent). The 1981 population of 48.4 million represents an increase of 7.2 million over the 1971 population of 41.2 million. For 1981, the projected population of the State as estimated by the Expert Committee was 47.3 million. The current annual increase in the State's population could be around 7-8 lakhs. The estimated birth and death rates for 1981, according to the Sample Registration System, are 28.0 and 11.8 per 1,000 and this leaves a natural increase of 16.2 per 1,000 or 1.62 per cent, annually. During 1951-60, the birth and death rates in the State were 34.9 and 22.5 respectively.

Decadal variation for the last three decades from 1951 to 1981 are given for the States and India in Table 2.15. It may be observed that at country level, it is within 20-25 in the last three decades. The growth rate of Tamil Nadu is lower than many of the other States in all the three decades. In the 1951-61 decade, Tamil Nadu (11.85 per cent) and Jammu and Kashmir (9.44 per cent) had very low growth rates, compared to other States. In the current decade of 1971-81, barring Tamil Nadu and Kerala States, the rest have all recorded decadal

GROWTH OF POPULATION 1901–81



GROWTH OF POPULATION BY SEX
1901- 81



EACH SYMBOL REPRESENTS 1,000,000 PERSONS

increase of over 20 per cent. It is also significant that 10 of the 22 States have recorded lower growth rates in 1971-81, when compared to 1961-71. Of the 22 States, nine have recorded lower growth rate than for the country as a whole (25.00 per cent) during 1971-81. All the 9 Union Territories have recorded more than the country's growth rate in this period.

Decadal variations among districts of Tamil Nadu

The decadal variations of the sixteen districts for the last three decades are given in Table 2.16. There are wide variations in the population of the different districts. Madras, Chengalpattu and Nilgiri are the three districts which have recorded very high growth rates of over 25-30 per cent in the recent decade as against the State's overall growth rate of 17.50 per cent. While Madras is the chief industrial and commercial centre of the State, besides being its capital, Chengalpattu district has a number of urban centres, which have grown because of their proximity to the metropolitan city of Madras. Large immigration to these places cause their rapid growth. In Nilgiri too, a small district, the growth is attributable to the large immigration caused by greater opportunities for employment created in plantations and other industries. Kanniyakumari district, the district at the country's southern tip, which formed prior to 1956, part of Travancore-Cochin State, grew at a faster rate than Tamil Nadu in the previous two decades of 1951-61 and 1961-71, but it has now, in 1971-81, recorded a lower growth rate than that of the State. The three districts of Tirunelveli (11.66 per cent), Tiruchchirappalli (13.16 per cent) and Thanjavur (14.46 per cent) have recorded comparatively very low rates of growth in 1971-81. Significantly enough, these districts have uniformly recorded lower growth than the State average in all the three previous decades.

One can easily observe that Tamil Nadu has made good strides in controlling population as compared to other States. Considerable success has no doubt been achieved in reducing the population growth by more effective protection of married couples of reproductive age group. Massive plans to increase family welfare programmes have also been planned for the years ahead. Although good economic progress has been achieved, agricultural and industrial production has enormously increased, further decline in the birth rate is essential, so as to remove poverty and scarcity and build a sound economic life, and to enable the fruits of the progress felt. A realistic improvement in the living standards could be achieved only then. Results of our efforts in this regard will be available only in the future censuses.

TABLE 2.1

AREA AND POPULATION OF STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES, 1981

Sl. No.	India/State/ Union Territory	Persons	Percentage to all India population	Rank in population	Area in 000s of Km^2	Percentage to all India area	Rank in area	Decennial growth rate of population, 1971-81
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
INDIA		685,184,692	100.00	..	3,287	100.00	..	25.00
STATES								
1.	Andhra Pradesh	53,549,673	7.82	5	275	8.37	5	23.10
2.	Assam*	19,896,843	2.90	13	78	2.39	14	36.05
3.	Bihar	69,914,734	10.20	2	174	5.29	9	24.06
4.	Gujarat	34,085,799	4.97	10	196	5.96	7	27.67
5.	Haryana	12,922,618	1.89	15	44	1.34	17	28.75
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4,280,818	0.62	18	56	1.69	15	23.71
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	5,987,389	0.87	17	222	6.76	6	29.69
8.	Karnataka	37,135,714	5.42	8	192	5.83	8	26.75
9.	Kerala	25,453,680	3.71	12	39	1.18	18	19.24
10.	Madhya Pradesh	52,178,844	7.62	6	443	13.49	1	25.27
11.	Maharashtra	62,784,171	9.16	3	308	9.36	3	24.54
12.	Manipur	1,420,953	0.21	20	22	0.68	20	32.46
13.	Meghalaya	1,335,819	0.19	21	22	0.68	19	32.04

14.	Nagaland	774,930	0.11	23	17	0.50	22	50.05
15.	Orissa	26,370,271	3.85	11	156	4.74	10	20.17
16.	Punjab	16,788,915	2.45	14	50	1.53	16	23.89
17.	Rajasthan	34,261,862	5.00	9	342	10.41	2	32.97
18.	Sikkim	316,385	0.05	28	7	0.22	25	50.77
19.	Tamil Nadu	48,408,077	7.06	7	130	3.96	11	17.50
20.	Tripura	2,053,058	0.30	19	10	0.32	23	31.92
21.	Uttar Pradesh	110,862,013	16.18	1	294	8.96	4	25.49
22.	West Bengal	54,580,647	7.97	4	89	2.70	12	23.17
UNION TERRITORIES								
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	188,741	0.03	29	8	0.25	24	63.93
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	631,839	0.09	24	84	2.55	13	35.15
3.	Chandigarh	451,610	0.07	27	0.11	N	30	75.55
4.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	103,676	0.02	30	0.49	0.01	29	39.78
5.	Delhi	6,220,406	0.91	16	1	0.05	27	53.00
6.	Goa, Daman & Diu	1,086,730	0.16	22	4	0.12	26	26.69
7.	Lakshadweep	40,249	0.01	31	0.03	N	31	26.53
8.	Mizoram	493,757	0.07	26	21	0.64	21	48.55
9.	Pondicherry	604,471	0.09	25	0.49	0.02	28	28.15

*The projected population for 1981 has been indicated for Assam.

N : Denotes negligible percentage

TABLE 2.2

POPULATION IN THE DISTRICTS OF TAMIL NADU, 1981

Sl. No.	State/District	Population			Percentage to the population	Rank in population
		Total	Males	Females		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	TAMIL NADU	48,408,077	24,487,624	23,920,453	100.00	..
1.	Madras	3,276,622	1,694,107	1,582,515	6.77	10
2.	Chengalpattu	3,616,508	1,848,124	1,768,384	7.47	5
3.	North Arcot	4,414,324	2,230,559	2,183,765	9.12	2
4.	South Arcot	4,201,869	2,130,444	2,071,425	8.68	3
5.	Dharmapuri	1,997,060	1,019,362	977,698	4.13	13
6.	Salem	3,441,717	1,765,822	1,675,895	7.11	8
7.	Periyar	2,068,462	1,057,599	1,010,863	4.27	12
8.	Coimbatore	3,060,184	1,569,570	1,490,614	6.32	11
9.	Nilgiri	630,169	321,995	308,174	1.30	16
10.	Madurai	4,535,897	2,296,614	2,239,283	9.37	1
11.	Tiruchchirappalli	3,612,320	1,819,668	1,792,652	7.46	6
12.	Thanjavur	4,063,545	2,043,724	2,019,821	8.40	4
13.	Pudukkottai	1,156,813	576,335	580,478	2.39	15
14.	Ramanathapuram	3,335,437	1,648,422	1,687,015	6.89	9
15.	Tirunelveli	3,573,751	1,748,321	1,825,430	7.38	7
16.	Kanniyakumari	1,423,399	716,958	706,441	2.94	14

TABLE 2.3

AREA OF DISTRICTS IN TAMIL NADU

Sl. No.	State/District	Area (in km²)	Percentage to total area of the State	Rank
1	2	3	4	5
	TAMIL NADU	130,058.0	100.00	..
1.	Madras	170.0	0.13	16
2.	Chengalpattu	7,863.0	6.05	11
3.	North Arcot	12,268.0	9.43	3
4.	South Arcot	10,895.0	8.38	6
5.	Dharmapuri	9,622.0	7.40	7
6.	Salem	8,650.0	6.65	8
7.	Periyar	8,209.0	6.31	10
8.	Coimbatore	7,469.0	5.74	12
9.	Nilgiri	2,549.0	1.96	14
10.	Madurai	12,624.0	9.71	1
11.	Tiruchchirappalli	11,095.0	8.53	5
12.	Thanjavur	8,280.0	6.37	9
13.	Pudukkottai	4,661.0	3.58	13
14.	Ramanathapuram	12,590.0	9.68	2
15.	Tirunelveli	11,429.0	8.79	4
16.	Kanniyakumari	1,684.0	1.29	15

TABLE 2.4

AVERAGE DISTRICT POPULATION IN THE STATES

Sl. No.	State	No. of Districts	Average district population (in millions), 1981	Rank
1	2	3	4	5
INDIA		412	1.66	..
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23	2.33	4
2.	Assam	10	1.99	8
3.	Bihar	31	2.26	5
4.	Gujarat	19	1.79	11
5.	Haryana	12	1.08	15
6.	Himachal Pradesh	12	0.36	18
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	0.43	17
8.	Karnataka	19	1.95	10
9.	Kerala	12	2.12	6
10.	Madhya Pradesh	45	1.16	14
11.	Maharashtra	26	2.41	3
12.	Manipur	6	0.24	20
13.	Meghalaya	5	0.27	19
14.	Nagaland	7	0.11	21
15.	Orissa	13	2.03	7
16.	Punjab	12	1.40	12
17.	Rajasthan	26	1.32	13
18.	Sikkim	4	0.08	22
19.	Tamil Nadu	16	3.03	2
20.	Tripura	3	0.68	16
21.	Uttar Pradesh	56	1.98	9
22.	West Bengal	16	3.41	1

Note : 1. For Assam, the projected population has been considered.

2. Figure for India includes 25 districts in the nine Union Territories also.

TABLE 25

AVERAGE POPULATION OF THE TALUKS OF TAMIL NADU

Sl. No.	District	No. of Taluks	Average population of the Taluk, 1981	Rank
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Chengalpattu	12	301,376	9
2.	North Arcot	13	339,563	8
3.	South Arcot	12	350,156	5
4.	Dharmapuri	8	249,633	12
5.	Salem	9	382,413	2
6.	Periyar	6	344,744	7
7.	Coimbatore	6	510,031	1
8.	Nilgiri	4	157,542	15
9.	Madurai	13	348,915	6
10.	Tiruchchirappalli . . .	10	361,232	3
11.	Thanjavur	16	253,972	11
12.	Pudukkottai	6	192,802	13
13.	Ramanathapuram . . .	18	185,302	14
14.	Tirunelveli	14	255,268	10
15.	Kanniyakumari	4	355,850	4
	*TAMIL NADU** . . .	*151*	298,884	..

*Excludes Madras, which is a City-District

TABLE 2.6

DENSITY OF POPULATION IN THE STATES

Sl. No.	India/State	Density of population per Km² in 1981	Rank
1	2	3	4
INDIA		216	..
1.	Andhra Pradesh	195	11
2.	Assam	254	8
3.	Bihar	402	3
4.	Gujarat	174	13
5.	Haryana	292	7
6.	Himachal Pradesh	77	17
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	59	20
8.	Karnataka	194	12
9.	Kerala	655	1
10.	Madhya Pradesh	118	15
11.	Maharashtra	204	9
12.	Manipur	64	18
13.	Meghalaya	60	19
14.	Nagaland	47	21
15.	Orissa	169	14
16.	Punjab	333	6
17.	Rajasthan	100	16
18.	Sikkim	45	22
19.	Tamil Nadu	372	5
20.	Tripura	196	10
21.	Uttar Pradesh	377	4
22.	West Bengal	615	2

TABLE 2.7

DENSITY OF POPULATION IN THE DISTRICTS IN 1981

Sl. No.	State/District	Density (population per Km²) 1981			Density, 1971
		Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
	TAMIL NADU . .	372	261	2,722	317
1.	Madras . . .	19,274	..	19,274	15,172
2.	Chengalpattu . .	460	306	2,169	356
3.	North Arcot . .	360	283	3,969	306
4.	South Arcot . .	386	334	2,326	332
5.	Dharmapuri . .	208	189	2,651	174
6.	Salem . . .	398	293	3,247	346
7.	Periyar . . .	252	201	2,615	219
8.	Coimbatore . .	410	231	1,710	345
9.	Nilgiri . . .	247	175	432	194
10.	Madurai . . .	359	237	4,067	312
11.	Tiruchchirappalli . .	326	248	2,700	288
12.	Thanjavur . . .	491	393	2,889	429
13.	Pudukkottai . .	248	218	2,737	203
14.	Ramanathapuram . .	265	197	2,111	227
15.	Tirunelveli . . .	313	218	1,738	280
16.	Kanniyakumari . .	845	718	5,754	726

TABLE 2.8

PERCENTAGE OF DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF LAND TO TOTAL GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF TAMIL NADU

Sl. No.	Category of land	Percentage to total geographical area, 1981-82
1	2	3
1.	Forests	15.57
2.	Barren and uncultivable land	4.48
3.	Land put to non-agricultural uses	13.58
4.	Cultivable waste	2.58
5.	Permanent pastures and other grazing lands	1.22
6.	Land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves (not included in the net area sown)	1.65
7.	Current fallows	12.99
8.	Other fallow land	3.75
9.	Net area sown	44.15

Source : Tamil Nadu—An Economic Appraisal 19[illegible].

TABLE 2.9

DENSITY OF POPULATION IN DISTRICTS BASED ON CULTIVATED AREA

Sl. No.	State/District	Cultivated area in Sq. Km.	Population, 1981	Density of population per Sq. Km.	
				Based on cultivated area*	Based on total area
1	2	3	4	5	6
	TAMIL NADU	59,593	48,408,077	812	372
1.	Chengalpattu	3,232	3,616,508	1,119	460
2.	North Arcot	4,499	4,414,324	981	360
3.	South Arcot	6,118	4,201,869	687	386
4.	Dharmapuri	3,771	1,997,060	530	208
5.	Salem	4,022	3,441,717	856	398
6.	Periyar	3,241	2,068,462	638	252
7.	Coimbatore	3,772	3,060,184	811	410
8.	Nilgiri	584	630,169	1,079	247
9.	Madurai	5,881	4,535,897	771	359
10.	Tiruchchirappalli	5,733	3,612,320	630	326
11.	Thanjavur	5,707	4,063,545	712	491
12.	Pudukkottai	1,911	1,156,813	605	248
13.	Ramanathapuram	6,113	3,335,437	546	265
14.	Tirunelveli	4,195	3,573,751	852	313
15.	Kanniyakumari	814	1,423,399	1,749	845

*Cultivated area includes 'Net area sown' and land under 'miscellaneous tree crops and groves'. Fallow lands, forests and other land put to non-agricultural uses, etc. are all excluded.

TABLE 2.10

NUMBER OF HOUSES AND HOUSEHOLDS

Sl. No.	State/District	No. of occupied residential houses	No. of house-holds	No. of house-holds per 100 houses	No. of house-holds per sq. km.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	TAMIL NADU . . .	9,982,996	10,281,002	103	79
1.	Madras . . .	620,241	629,697	102	3,704
2.	Chengalpattu . .	722,977	745,336	103	95
3.	North Arcot . .	779,543	889,532	114	73
4.	South Arcot . .	830,129	861,015	104	79
5.	Dharmapuri . .	374,342	386,664	103	40
6.	Salem	797,523	800,926	100	93
7.	Periyar . . .	499,174	501,083	100	61
8.	Coimbatore . .	669,971	678,655	101	91
9.	Nilgiri . . .	127,023	127,230	100	50
10.	Madurai . . .	947,758	959,065	101	76
11.	Tiruchchirappalli . .	788,516	803,924	102	72
12.	Thanjavur . . .	848,827	877,806	103	106
13.	Pudukkottai . .	226,552	231,137	102	50
14.	Ramanathapuram .	709,788	717,574	101	57
15.	Tirunelveli . . .	783,332	794,297	101	69
16.	Kanniyakumari . .	257,300	277,061	108	165

TABLE 2.11

NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSEHOLD IN THE STATE AND DISTRICTS

Sl. No.	State/District	No. of persons per household		
		Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5
	TAMIL NADU	4.7	4.6	4.9
1.	Madras	5.2	..	5.2
2.	Chengalpattu	4.9	4.8	4.9
3.	North Arcot	5.0	4.9	5.2
4.	South Arcot	4.9	4.8	5.1
5.	Dharmapuri	5.2	5.2	5.1
6.	Salem	4.3	4.2	4.6
7.	Periyar	4.1	4.1	4.4
8.	Coimbatore	4.5	4.3	4.7
9.	Nilgiri	5.0	4.9	5.1
10.	Madurai	4.7	4.6	5.0
11.	Tiruchchirappalli . . .	4.5	4.4	4.7
12.	Thanjavur	4.6	4.5	5.0
13.	Pudukkottai	5.0	5.0	5.0
14.	Ramanathapuram . . .	4.6	4.6	4.7
15.	Tirunelveli	4.5	4.4	4.7
16.	Kanniyakumari	5.1	5.1	5.2

TABLE 2.12

HOUSELESS AND INSTITUTIONAL HOUSEHOLDS AND THEIR POPULATION

State/District	Houseless			Institutional		
	House-holds	Popula-tion	Popula-tion per lakh of total population	House-holds	Popula-tion	Popula-tion per lakh of total po-pulation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
TAMIL NADU	17,245	57,461	119	11,292	318,796	659
1. Madras	1,668	6,841	209	465	22,524	687
2. Chengalpattu	1,438	5,168	143	463	24,836	687
3. North Arcot	1,439	4,970	113	529	22,211	503
4. South Arcot	1,337	5,039	120	1,007	17,018	405
5. Dharmapuri	383	1,982	99	121	4,205	211
6. Salem	724	2,436	71	677	15,130	440
7. Periyar	838	2,528	122	697	10,204	493
8. Coimbatore	974	2,912	95	1,189	22,649	740
9. Nilgiri	207	626	99	511	14,407	2,286
10. Madurai	1,211	3,139	69	1,136	39,595	873
11. Tiruchchirappalli	1,391	4,026	111	953	28,725	795
12. Thanjavur	3,559	11,428	281	1,176	30,302	746
13. Pudukkottai	336	947	82	355	6,475	560
14. Ramanathapuram	762	3,193	96	559	20,000	600
15. Tirunelveli	827	1,836	51	1,025	32,851	919
16. Kanniyakumari	151	390	27	429	7,664	538

TABLE 2.13

DECENNIAL VARIATION IN THE POPULATION OF INDIA, 1901-1981

Census Year	Population	Percentage decade variation
1	2	3
1901	238,396,327	..
1911	252,093,390	+5.75
1921	251,321,213	—0.31
1931	278,977,238	+11.00
1941	318,660,580	+14.22
1951	361,088,090	+13.31
1961	439,234,771	+21.51
1971	548,159,652	+24.80
1981	685,184,692*	+25.00

*Includes the projected population of Assam

TABLE 2.14

DECENNIAL VARIATION IN THE POPULATION OF TAMIL NADU, 1901-1981

Census Year	Population	Decade variation	Percentage decade variation
1	2	3	4
1901	19,252,630	..	..
1911	20,902,616	+1,649,986	+8.57
1921	21,628,518	+725,902	+3.47
1931	23,472,099	+1,843,581	+8.52
1941	26,267,507	+2,795,408	+11.91
1951	30,119,047	+3,851,540	+14.66
1961	33,686,953	+3,567,906	+11.85
1971	41,199,168	+7,512,215	+22.30
1981	48,408,077	+7,208,909	+17.50

TABLE 2.15

GROWTH RATE—INDIA AND STATES

Sl. No.	India/State	Percentage increase in population during		
		1951-61	1961-71	1971-81
1	2	3	4	5
INDIA		21.51	24.80	25.00
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15.65	20.90	23.10
2.	Assam	34.98	34.95	36.05
3.	Bihar	19.76	21.33	24.06
4.	Gujarat	26.88	29.39	27.67
5.	Haryana	33.79	32.23	28.75
6.	Himachal Pradesh	17.87	23.04	23.71
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	9.44	29.65	29.69
8.	Karnataka	21.57	24.22	26.75
9.	Kerala	24.76	26.29	19.24
10.	Madhya Pradesh	24.17	28.67	25.27
11.	Maharashtra	23.60	27.45	24.54
12.	Manipur	35.04	37.53	32.46
13.	Meghalaya	27.03	31.50	32.04
14.	Nagaland	14.07	39.88	50.05
15.	Orissa	19.82	25.05	20.17
16.	Punjab	21.56	21.70	23.89
17.	Rajasthan	26.20	27.83	32.97
18	Sikkim	17.76	29.38	50.77
19.	Tamil Nadu	11.85	22.30	17.50
20.	Tripura	78.71	36.28	31.92
21.	Uttar Pradesh	16.66	19.78	25.49
22.	West Bengal	32.80	26.87	23.17

TABLE 2.16

GROWTH RATE OF TAMIL NADU AND ITS DISTRICTS

Sl. No.	State/District	Percentage increase in population during		
		1951-61	1961-71	1971-81
1	2	3	4	5
	TAMIL NADU	11.85	22.30	17.50
1.	Madras	22.09	45.20	27.04
2.	Chengalpattu	11.98	30.18	29.26
3.	North Arcot	8.51	19.37	17.53
4.	South Arcot	9.77	18.69	16.15
5.	Dharmapuri	22.05	25.94	19.03
6.	Salem	8.44	21.07	15.01
7.	Periyar	7.20	20.40	15.11
8.	Coimbatore	17.20	24.76	18.79
9.	Nilgiri	31.30	20.70	27.56
10.	Madurai	11.05	22.63	15.18
11.	Tiruchchirappalli . . .	8.97	19.66	13.16
12.	Thanjavur	8.78	17.63	14.46
13.	Pudukkottai	6.58	26.24	22.11
14.	Ramanathapuram . . .	16.33	18.11	16.62
15.	Tirunelveli	8.99	17.22	11.66
16.	Kanniyakumari	20.64	22.63	16.43

CHAPTER III

VILLAGE DWELLERS AND TOWN DWELLERS

It is interesting to study how the population is distributed in the different cities, towns and also the villages. We all know that there is a great concentration of people in the cities and towns while in the villages, the population is not so dense and they are spread out in a much larger area. It is said that economic development brings in its wake a large increase in the population of cities and towns. This is due to the emigration of a good number of people from the villages in search of employment opportunities, higher and technical education, and in short better living conditions. In common parlance, we call the people living in cities and towns as 'urban' population and those living in the villages and their hamlets as the 'rural' population.

Growth of urban areas

Cities and towns have come to exist due to multiplicity of reasons. In the past, the urban centres were mostly commercial centres, pilgrim centres or administrative headquarters. The commercial and industrial revolution witnessed in the last half-century or more have enormously increased the population of the cities and other 'urban' areas. While the setting up of the industries and the expansion of trade and commerce have boosted the existing urban centres and tremendously increased their population, several new towns have also sprung up in and around new industrial projects. Industrial and business houses in the urban areas offer wide scope for educated and skilled employment and such opportunities do not exist in the villages. Better educational facilities, medical facilities, employment, etc., induce the people living in rural areas to migrate from villages to towns.

Everyone knows that the conditions of living are different in the 'rural' and 'urban' areas. The 'standard of life' itself is said to vary considerably and the facilities enjoyed by the urban dwellers are something different from those of the villagers. It is, therefore, customary in Census to compile and present data separately for the rural and urban population. An important exercise done a few months ahead of every decennial census in our country is the identification and listing of the urban areas. These areas are finally recognised as 'urban' for census and the rest are all treated as 'rural' places. Census

statistics on the rural and urban population have a variety of important uses. An urban area is recognised with reference to certain prescribed criteria.

Census definition of 'urban' area

The definition of an urban area as adopted in 1981 census was more or less the same as that used in the 1961 and 1971 censuses. While all the Municipalities, Corporations, Cantonments or other notified town areas have automatically been considered as 'urban', the other areas have been recognised as urban only when they processed a minimum population of 5,000, a population density of at least 400 persons per sq. km. and at least 75 per cent of the male workers of such places were engaged in non-agricultural and allied activities. Out of the list of towns recognised in the previous census, a few which did not continue to have the urban characteristics are derecognised as rural, while a number of new ones are also recognised. No special definition is needed in regard to 'rural' areas. The areas not recognised as 'urban' automatically fall under the 'rural' category. Thanks to the continuity in the 'urban' definition used in the last three censuses, the comparability of the urban statistics given by census is maintained. In consultation with the State Government and the district administration, the urban areas in Tamil Nadu have been determined as 434 for the 1981 Census. The 'urban' units in the State as recognised in the previous 1971 and 1961 Censuses were 439 and 339 respectively. The decline in the number of towns in 1981 in the State is due to the derecognition of a few towns (13) and the merger of a number of smaller towns (23) with the neighbouring big cities and towns due to the expansion of jurisdiction of the latter. A number of new towns have also been recognised for the first time in the State (30 towns) during 1981.

Extent of urban population

The extent of urban population of the State has been increasing over the last several decades. In Tamil Nadu, only 14.2 per cent of the population lived in 'urban' areas in 1901. In 1911, the ratio went up to 15.1 per cent and in 1921, it went up further to 15.9 percent. The ratio rose to 18.0 in 1931 and to 19.7 in 1941. In the first census taken after Independence, i.e., in 1951, the urban population percentage in the State was 24.4. In 1961 and 1971 censuses, the rates were 26.7 and 30.3 respectively. In 1981, there has been a further jump to 33.0 per cent. This reveals that in Tamil Nadu, nearly one out of every three persons today is living in a city or town and the other two are living in villages.

Out of the 48.4 million population of the State, 16.0 million are urban dwellers and they are living in the 434 cities and towns. The rural population which is spread out in the 15,831 inhabited villages, constitute 67.0 per cent of the total population. The rural population is thus twice that of the urban population in the State. It used to be said that India's image and culture, reflected by its teeming millions, are to be found only in its villages and not in towns. The truth of this statement is amply clear from the above census data. In the country as a whole, only about 23 per cent are 'urban' dwellers and the rest are living in 5.6 lakh villages, spread over all the States and Union Territories. There is a heavy dependence on agriculture among the rural population and this has resulted in the country being called essentially as an 'agricultural economy'.

Urbanisation and economic development

Though the pace of urbanisation and the process of urban development are quite complicated, the importance of 'urbanisation' and how it goes hand in hand with economic development must be clearly understood. Economically advanced countries of the world have invariably a very high percentage of their respective population living in urban centres. There is a heavy concentration of population in cities and their rural population (with dependence on agriculture) is very less. According to an estimate, made with reference to the census data on the different countries, the urban dwellers constitute nearly 40 per cent of the world population. While this ratio is as high as 71 per cent in the more developed countries, it is only 32 per cent in the less developed countries. That India has not reached even this low level of 32 per cent in 1981, is a pointer to the extent or scope for further development. In the advanced countries, the percentage of urban population is very high. For example, the urban population constitute 86 per cent of the total population in Australia, 83 per cent in New Zealand, 76 per cent in Japan and U.K., 74 per cent in the USA and Canada, 94 per cent in West Germany, 73 per cent in France and 64 per cent in Russia. These are all highly industrialised countries with very high standards of living. On the contrary, several less developed countries of Asia and Africa have an average of only 27 and 29 per cent of the population as 'urban' inhabitants.

Urban population in the India and the States

At the country level, the urban population constitute only 23.31 per cent of the total population. This includes the projected population for Assam, where census could not be conducted in 1981 along with the rest of the country, due to disturbed condi-

tions prevailing there at that time. Considering several other countries, this percentage is very low. Many experts in the field of urbanisation, often assert that the 'urban' area should be recognised not only on the basis of defined urban characteristics alone, but on the basis of the level of infrastructural facilities available in a place. We have, however, not been able to arrive so far at any agreeable criteria based on such factors for identifying the urban areas. Probably, the percentages of 'urban' population would be a little more, if any such method is evolved. The all India urban population percentage has been increasing very slowly over the decades. It stood around 10.84 per cent at the beginning of the century (1901 census). It increased to nearly 12 per cent in 1931 and went up further to 13.86 per cent in 1941. In 1951, it rose faster to 17.29 per cent and was very nearly 20 per cent in 1971 (19.91 per cent). The higher ratio of over 23 per cent in 1981 may not represent a big increase; but, considering the fact that nearly 160 millions of our people are now living in the cities and towns (including Urban Agglomerations) in India, numbering 3,245, we can realise the important role of the urban inhabitants and the enormity of the urban problems, even at the existing stage of urbanisation in the country. The urban population of India is expected to reach around 30-35 per cent by about the turn of the century. This level of over 30 per cent has already been touched by States like Maharashtra (35.03 per cent), Tamil Nadu (32.95 per cent) and Gujarat (31.10 per cent) in 1981. These three states had registered comparatively higher rates of urban population even during the 1971 Census. The other States with a good ratio of urban population in 1981 of 25 to 30 per cent are Karnataka (28.89 per cent), Punjab (27.68 per cent), West Bengal (26.47 per cent) and Manipur (26.42 per cent). These are also better industrialised and commercially advanced States and this is reflected in the greater concentration of population in cities and towns. While Table 3.1 gives a comparative picture of the percentage of urban population in India and Tamil Nadu for the nine censuses from 1901, Table 3.2 gives the percentages for 1971 and 1981 for the country, the various States and the Union Territories. It is significant to note that Tamil Nadu has consistently registered a higher ratio of urban population than for the country, over the last several censuses.

The Union Territories are mostly small in extent and there is wide variation in their size too. Besides, some of them like Delhi and Chandigarh are 'urbanised' almost fully. As such, we may restrict our comparison of relative urbanisation ratios to the States. We find that of the twenty-two States, Maharashtra

is the most urbanised State in the country with about 35 per cent of its population living in cities and towns. Besides the second biggest urban complex of the country, viz., Greater Bombay (Calcutta Urban Agglomeration, being the first) with over eight million population, there are also two other big urban areas of over one million in this State, and these are Pune and Nagpur Urban Agglomerations. In 1971 also, this State had the highest urban population percentage among the States (31.17 per cent). Tamil Nadu stands as the second most urbanised State of India both as per 1971 and 1981 censuses. Gujarat is the third State to have over 30 per cent of urban population in the country, the percentage being 31.10 in 1981. The least urban percentage among the States is recorded by the hilly State of Himachal Pradesh (7.61 per cent). While nine States have between 20—30 per cent of urban population, nine others have recorded over ten per cent but below twenty per cent of their population as 'urban'.

Of the nine Union Territories, Delhi and Chandigarh are city regions and hence over 90 per cent of them are 'urban'. Pondicherry Union Territory has an urban population ratio of over fifty per cent (52.3 per cent). The two Union Territories with low urban ratios of less than ten per cent are Arunachal Pradesh (6.56 per cent) and Dadra and Nagar Haveli (6.67 per cent).

Though Tamil Nadu occupies the second important position among the states in regard to urban population both in 1971 and 1981, it can be easily observed that the increase is somewhat higher during the last decade in the case of Maharashtra (3.86 percentage points) and Gujarat (3.02 points) than Tamil Nadu (2.69 points). A few other states like Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhaya Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Sikkim have registered a good increase of over four points in their percentages in 1981 as compared to 1971, but the highest is recorded by the State of Manipur which has practically doubled its ratio from 13.19 per cent in 1971 to 26.42 per cent during 1981.

The States with very low urban proportion of 12 per cent and below are Orissa, Tripura, Assam and Himachal Pradesh. The relatively poor economic development, slow pace of industrialisation and comparatively higher proportion of workers in the primary sector of activities, like agriculture, forestry, etc., in these States, could be the main reasons for the low ratio of urban dwellers. Of the four southern States, Tamil Nadu (32.95

per cent) is the most urbanised, closely followed by Karnataka (28.89 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (23.32 per cent) and Kerala (18.74 per cent). It is interesting to note that while Tamil Nadu (with 32.95 per cent) is the most urbanised among the four southern States, yet the increase of urban population percentage in 1981 as compared to 1971 is found to be higher in Karnataka (with 4.58 points) and Andhra Pradesh (with 4.01 points) when compared to Tamil Nadu during the same decade.

Rural Population

People living in places other than the 'Urban' areas, as declared for the census, are termed 'rural population'. The rural population consists of people who live in the villages, forest areas, etc. The basic administrative unit as regards the rural area is the revenue village, which is a well recognised unit and the boundaries of each village are defined in the records of the State Revenue Department. Almost all the villages are also surveyed in Tamil Nadu, with clearly demarcated boundaries. In the 1981 Census also, as was the case in 1971, data have been compiled for this basic unit. A revenue village is a group of hamlets, interspersed by fields, waste lands, ditches or jungles. It may consist of a number of hamlets of varying sizes with a point of central interest linking them together. In short, it is a compact unit of administration for purposes of revenue collection. All the villages are not necessarily inhabited. There are a few villages which are uninhabited also.

As per the 1981 Census, there are 16,812 villages in Tamil Nadu, of which 981 are found to be uninhabited, as against 16,660 villages during 1971, of which only 925 were uninhabited. The uninhabited villages include forest units which are treated as villages for census purposes. These forests which stand apart do not form part of the villages.

Details about the number of inhabited and uninhabited villages in Tamil Nadu and its districts as in 1981 Census, as also the average number of persons per inhabited village during 1971 and 1981 are presented in Table 3.4. There has been a small increase of 96 in the number of inhabited villages in the State during 1981 (15,831) as compared to 1971. The variation in the number of villages between the two censuses of 1971 and 1981 could be due to one or more of the following reasons: declaration of certain rural areas as new towns for 1981 census, derecognition of certain 1971 towns as rural areas (and therefore as villages), merger of some of the rural areas with the existing cities/towns, emergence of newly inhabited villages which

were previously uninhabited, recognition of certain merged villages like inam or jaghir villages or forest units as separate villages in one census and as merged ones with other units in another or vice versa, etc. It is significant to note that the average population of a village in the State has now crossed 2,000 level and stands, as in 1981 Census, at 2,050. It was previously 1,826 in 1971.

Seven of the 15 districts (excluding Madras, which is a city district) have over 1,000 inhabited villages, the district of South Arcot having the highest number of 2,280. The other districts with comparatively larger number of inhabited villages are North Arcot (1,873), Chengalpattu (1,856) and Thanjavur (1,728). The two small districts with less than 100 inhabited villages are Kanniyakumari (87) and Nilgiri (43). The number of uninhabited villages are more in the districts with forest and dry regions. The largest number of uninhabited villages is recorded in North Arcot district (152). The other districts each having more than 100 uninhabited villages are Ramanathapuram (115), Dharmapuri (102) and Madurai (101).

It is pertinent to ask here whether the various villages spread over the different districts bear some uniformity in size. The answer is 'no'. The area as well as population of the various villages differ widely. While there are very small villages with one or two hamlets or fewer habitations, there are also a number of big villages in several districts, where there are a number of hamlets.

There are nearly 5.6 lakhs of inhabited villages in India and over three-fourths of the country's population are living in them. The average population per inhabited village in India (excluding Assam) works out to 911 and compared to this, our State has got a higher average, viz., 2,050. Among the States and Union Territories, the highest average population size is recorded by Kerala (16,967 persons per village). This State is well known for its big—sized villages. While the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh has revealed an average size of 1,500 persons per village, Karnataka has recorded 977. The States with comparatively very low average population per village are Meghalaya (223) and Himachal Pradesh (235) and also Arunachal Pradesh (181) and Andamans (283) among the Union Territories. The lower average population per village for India is mainly due to the lower averages recorded in the big States like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Considering the different districts of Tamil Nadu, we observe wide variations in the average population per inhabited village.

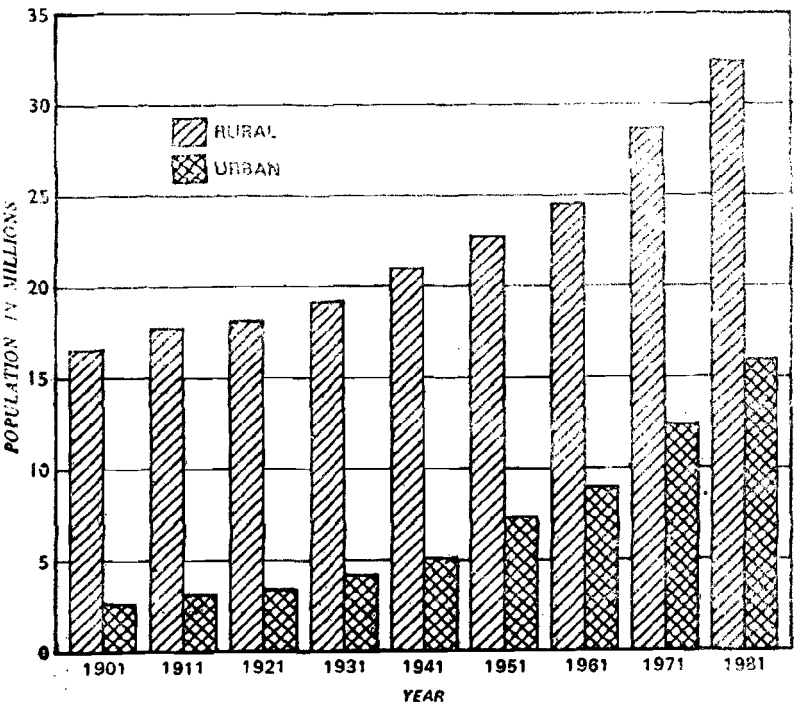
The southern-most district of Kanniyakumari stands distinct from the rest with the highest observed average of 13,539 persons per village. This district had recorded still higher average of 15,426 population per village in the earlier census of 1971. Generally, one would expect an increase in the average village population between two censuses due to the general growth in population and more or less constant number of villages. In fact, the average number of persons per inhabited village has increased in 1981 over that of 1971 in all the district of the State. The number of villages changes only in rare instances of recognition of new villages due to bifurcation of some or formation of new habitations out of forest areas or other uninhabited areas, etc. as earlier indicated. In Kanniyakumari district, the number of inhabited villages has gone up from 66 in 1971 to 87 in 1981 and this is the result of resurvey, realignment of village boundaries and the consequent recognition of new villages. The increase in the average village population is comparatively lower in Chengalpattu district, where also there has been a notable increase in the number of inhabited villages (from 1,778 in 1971 to 1,856 in 1981). In this case, several inam villages, etc. which formed part of other villages, have been recognised in 1981 as independent villages. The average population per village is the lowest in Chengapattu district (1,190) and it is less than the State average of 2,050 in seven out of 15 districts. Next to Kanniyakumari, we find a high average village population (of 7,496 persons) in the mountainous district of Nilgiri where also the villages are comparatively big in size. The other districts with high average size are Coimbatore (3,392) and Periyar (3,354). Four other districts have an average size of 2,000-3,000 population per village, and the other seven districts have on an average 1.000-2,000 inhabitants per village.

Villages of varying population size

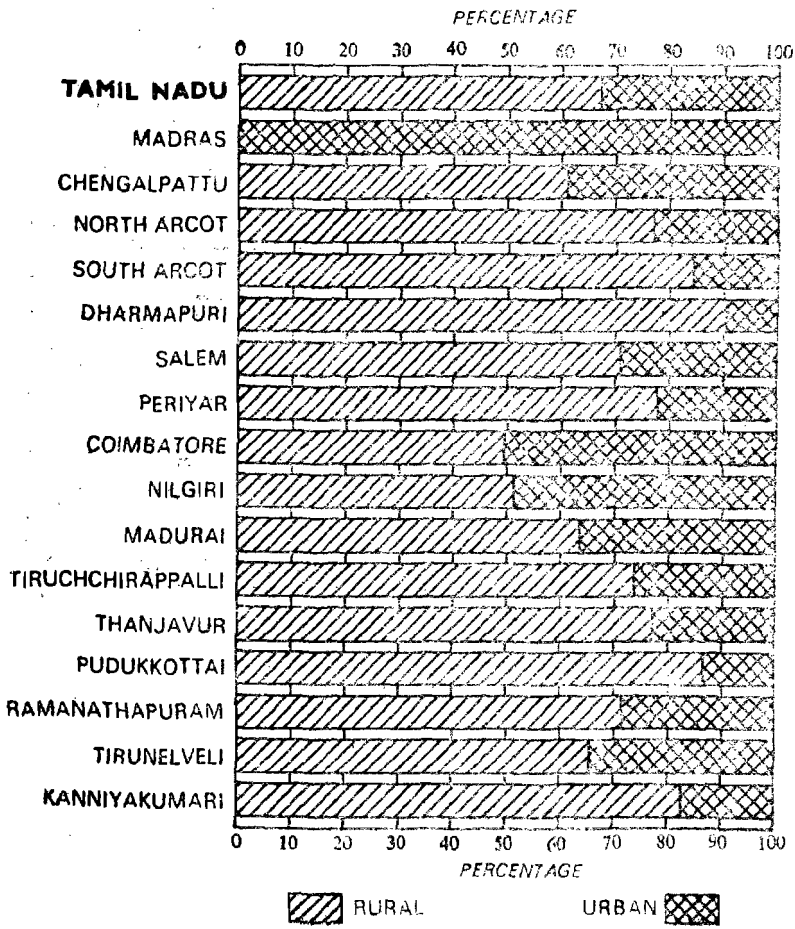
Considering the population content, we notice that the largest number of villages, viz., 4,570 (out of the State's total of 15,831 inhabited villages) have in them population between 1,000-1,999. In the next higher size class of 2,000-4,999 population, the second largest number of villages, viz., 4,381 is noticed. While the size class 1,000-1,999 accounts for 28.87 per cent of all villages, the other size class 2,000-4,999 accounts for 27.67 per cent. Thus, 56.5 per cent of the State's villages fall in the population range 1,000-4,999. Nearly, 62 per cent of the State's rural population are living in these villages.

Very small villages with less than 500 persons in them account for 15.95 per cent of the total villages and they have in

POPULATION IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS, 1901-81



PERCENTAGE OF RURAL AND URBAN POPULATION IN DISTRICTS, 1981



them only a small percentage of the rural population. Many of these small-sized villages are located in Chengalpattu and Dharmapuri districts in the northern region and Pudukkottai and Ramanathapuram districts in the South. Large-sized villages, each having more than 10,000 persons, number 182. While 51 of these big villages are in Kanniyakumari district, 33 are in Madurai and 19 in Periyar district. Salem (16) and Tirunelveli (13) are the other districts with more than ten such villages. It is interesting to see that these very large villages constitute a mere 1.15 per cent of the total number of the villages, though they contain 8.54 per cent of the rural population of the State. The largest proportion of the rural population (that is inhabiting the villages) viz., 41.35 per cent is found in the villages of 2,000-4,999 size, followed by 20.30 per cent in the villages of 1,000-1,999 size.

At district level, we observe wide variations in the proportions of villages as also the rural population in them in the different size-classes. A comparative picture on these ratios both as per 1981 and 1971 censuses can be had from Table 3.6.

The rural population of Tamil Nadu, which stands at 32.5 million, constitutes two-thirds of the total population. It has more or less doubled since the beginning of the century when it was 16.5 million (in 1901). The rural population had been increasing only by less than two million in every decade upto 1961. But, during 1961-71 decade, the rural population went up by over four million. In the last 10 years (1971-81), the rural population increase was 3.7 million and accounted for an increase of 12.95 per cent over the 1971 figure.

Urban population in the districts

The degree of urbanisation varies in the different districts. Excluding the city district of Madras, which is urban in entirety, the only district where over half of its population are living in cities and towns, is the industrially advanced district of Coimbatore. The urban component of the population of this district works to 50.46 per cent. The mountainous Nilgiri district too has a comparatively sizable ratio of its people in the urban centres (48.85 per cent). There are three more districts, besides the above ones, which have a percentage of urban population of over 33.0 (the State average), but below 40 per cent. These districts are Chengalpattu (38.93 per cent), Madurai (36.24 per cent) and Tirunelveli (34.64 per cent). Dharmapuri, which is a hilly district, has the least urban population percentage among the districts with a mere 9.37 per cent living in its seven towns. The other poorly urbanised districts of Tamil Nadu are Pudukkottai (13.28 per

cent), South Arcot (15.70 per cent) and Kanniyakumari (17.25 per cent). While the number of recognised towns in Census is also small in the case of Pudukkottai (8) and Kanniyakumari (5) districts it is somewhat more viz., 17 in South Arcot district. The six remaining districts not mentioned above have urban population in the range of 20-30 per cent. These are North Arcot, Salem, Periyar, Tiruchchirappalli, Thanjavur and Ramanathapuram districts.

Urban area and density

Although the State's urban population of nearly 16 million are living in 434 cities and towns (as recognised in the 1981 Census), it is significant to observe that the total area of these urban centres add up to 5,861 sq. km. only, out of the total extent of 130,058 sq. km. in the State. The total area of the cities and towns constitute just 4.5 per cent of the State's area. Thus, we notice that the urban population, constituting 33 per cent of the population of the State, is found to live in a mere 4.5 per cent of State's area. The density of population for urban areas works to 2,722 persons per sq. km. as per 1981 Census. The population density for the entire State, that is inclusive of both rural and urban areas, is 372 per sq.km. Considering the population density in the urban areas of the various districts, Madras is observed to have the highest density of 19,274 persons per sq.km. While Kanniyakumari district has the second highest urban density of 5,754 persons, Madurai district has the third highest figure of 4,067. The urban density is also comparatively more and exceeds 3,000 in the districts of North Arcot (3,969) and Salem (3,247). Nilgiri district has the lowest urban density of 432 persons per sq.km. among the 16 districts.

Urbanisation at Taluk level

As in the case of districts, there are wide differences in the extent of urbanisation among taluks too. While there are some taluks with a city and some towns within their area, many have one or two towns only and a few of them none. Of the 151 taluks in the State (excluding the city district of Madras), we find that there are no towns at all in 17 taluks. As these taluks do not have even a single urban unit within their territory, the entire population in these taluks is characterised as 'rural' and they all live in the villages. While 53 taluks have just one urban unit (city or town) with in their area, 25 taluks have two towns each and 21 taluks three towns each. Saidapet taluk of Chengalpattu district, encircling the City of Madras, has the distinction of recording the largest number of towns

for any taluk, viz., 32. A number of suburban areas which fall under the influence of the City of Madras have turned into urban centres over the years and these are all located in Saidapet taluk. The second largest number of towns in a taluk is noticed in Salem taluk (26 towns including Salem City). The other taluks with more than ten towns in each are Sriperumbudur (17 towns), Coimbatore (14 towns), Tiruchchirappalli (12 towns) and Tirunelveli (11 towns).

The percentage of urban population is very high and exceeds 75 per cent of the entire taluk population in the following cases: Madurai South taluk (90.9 per cent), Tuticorin taluk (84.9 per cent), Saidapet taluk (84.5 per cent) and Coimbatore taluk (77.1 per cent). While Saidapet taluk has within its boundaries quite a number of suburban towns around the metropolitan city of Madras, the other three taluks referred above contain in their area populous cities classified as Class I towns in census.

Distribution of towns by population size

The towns are all of different sizes. Some are small while others are big and some very big with a very high population. For example, Madras city—the fourth biggest in the country—has a population of 3,276,622 while there are a number of small towns with population of less than even 5,000. To help us understand the distribution of the urban population in the towns belonging to different population sizes, we generally group them into six sizes in census. The classification of towns is done as under:

Class of Town as per Census	Population Size
Class I	Population of 100,000 and above
Class II	50,000 to 99,999
Class III	20,000 to 49,999
Class IV	10,000 to 19,999
Class V	5,000 to 9,999
Class VI	Less than 5,000

There are 434 urban units in Tamil Nadu of which 21 (4.8 per cent) are Class I towns, each with a population of one lakh and over. These are generally known in census as cities. The number of towns in each class and the percentage of urban population contributed by the six size classes of towns are indicated in Table 3.8.

An important feature noticed is the high concentration of the urban population in the cities (or Class I towns). The 21 cities in Tamil Nadu account for nearly half of the urban popu-

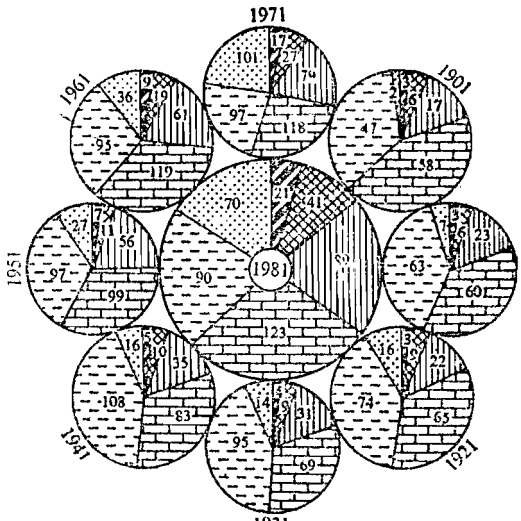
lation in the State (49.10 per cent). The contribution to the State's urban population by the towns belonging to each of the remaining five classes of II to VI is much smaller, the smallest contribution of 1.28 per cent being from 70 Class VI towns. The proportion of the urban population accounted for by the 90 Class V and 123 Class IV towns is also small viz., 4.04 per cent and 11.07 per cent respectively. Towns of Classes II and III contribute larger proportions to the urban population in the State, with sizable ratios of 17.22 per cent and 17.29 per cent respectively, when compared to the other three classes of smaller towns.

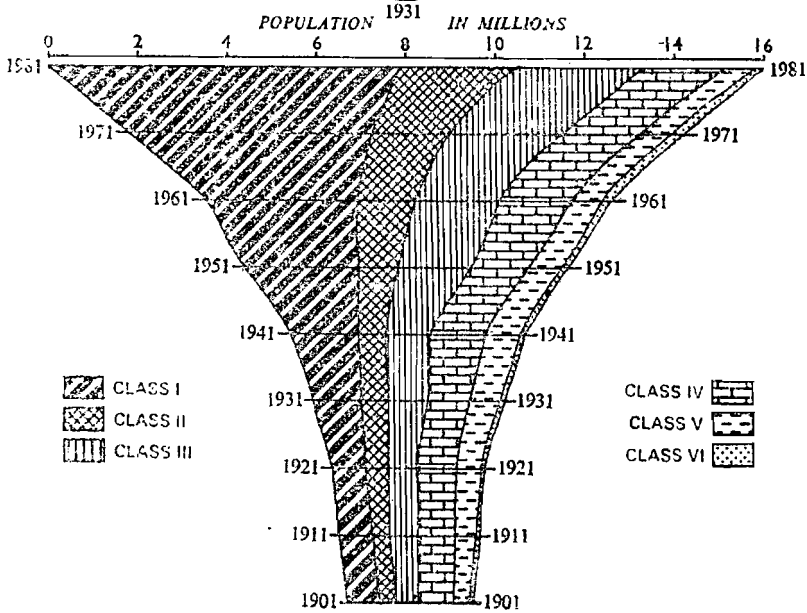
There are 434 towns in Tamil Nadu as recognised in the current 1981 census. In 1901 census, there were only 133 towns in Tamil Nadu. The number of towns as recognised in each of the six size classes in the decennial censuses from 1901 to 1981 is shown in Table 3.9.

It is significant to note that the largest number of towns in the State fall under Class IV, i.e., with population 10,000 to 19,999. This has been so in the last four censuses. In 1981, 123 towns are in this class, and they constitute more than one-fourth of the total number of recognised towns (434). There are 21 towns with population one lakh and over (i.e. cities), Madras city being the only one with over one million persons. The number of Cities in Tamil Nadu, which stood at 9 in 1961 rose to 17 in 1971 and further to 21 in 1981. The Class II and III towns which are also inhabited by sizable urban population, number 41 and 89 respectively as in 1981. While the number of Class II towns has registered a sharp increase to 41 in 1981 (from 27 in 1971), the number of Class III towns went up only by 10 (from 79 to 89). The smaller towns, i.e. those under the last two classes of V and VI, have declined. The towns of less than 5,000 population (Class VI) declined sharply from 101 in 1971 to 70 in 1981. The number of towns in this class has been affected by new recognition and derecognition of a few urban areas in 1981, and besides, quite a good number of these towns also got merged with the neighbouring big cities and towns, whose jurisdiction expanded in the last decade. The population of each town for the nine censuses from 1901 or from the census in which they are recognised as 'urban' are given in a table (Table A-4) in another census publication entitled 'General Population Tables' (Part II-A), of 1981 Census.

The urban population living in towns of '20,000 and above' alone is quite sizable and these towns could be termed fully urban as against the other smaller ones, many of which may be

NUMBER OF TOWNS BY SIZE CLASS, 1901-81





POPULATION OF TOWNS BY SIZE CLASS, 1901-81

said to possess some rural characteristics also. The extent of the urban population living in these towns (of Classes I, II and III) to the entire population is considered customarily as an important index of urbanisation. This percentage was very small in 1901 (8.06 per cent) and it went up to 17.00 per cent in 1951, 23.73 per cent in 1971 and stands now at 27.55 per cent as in 1981. This percentage of 27.55 in 1981 against the total percentage of urban population (of all towns) to the State's population (32.95) indicates the high concentration of the urban population in these big cities and towns.

It is interesting to note that towns belonging to Classes III to VI, i.e. those having less than a population of 50,000, though constituting over 85 per cent of the total number of towns in the State, account for only 33.68 per cent of the State's urban population. The big towns of 50,000 and over, including cities of one lakh population and above, account for the rest of the urban population (i.e. 66.32 per cent). Nearly, two-thirds of the urban population are thus found in these big towns. The cities alone account for nearly half of the State's urban population (49.10 per cent). The 21 cities accounting for such a high ratio of urban population reveals the heavy concentration of population in cities. That people migrate in larger numbers to the cities than to other towns is obvious from the very high population growth rates recorded by the cities in the last few censuses. This shows the preference of the migrant population, which is certainly due to the attractions that the cities provide from the educational and employment point of view. The Class I cities had only a percentage of 26.43 of the State's total urban population in 1901. It gradually went up in every census and was 35.50 per cent in 1951. It increased further to 37.76 per cent in 1961 and 43.80 per cent in 1971, before reaching the present level of 49.10 per cent in 1981. The urban population living in towns belonging to classes II and III are also sizable and account for about 17 per cent each in 1981 and their ratios, though having slight variations in every census, do not reveal any large increase. The ratio of urban population living in the other three classes of smaller towns have been declining over the censuses as may be observed from Table 3.11.

There are a number of towns which are contiguous to the big cities and their growth has been caused as a result of the influence of the big cities. Census compiles data for such big cities together with the contiguous town or towns which are the outgrowth of these cities. These are called urban agglomerations,

details of which are discussed in a subsequent paragraph. The population of such urban agglomerations includes, besides the core town, those of the contiguous urban areas and their outgrowth also, as recognised for census. When the urban agglomerations of 100,000 and over population, i.e. Class I, are considered (instead of the cities alone), the percentage of urban population living in Class I towns including urban agglomerations) as per 1981 census is even higher, viz., 62.22 per cent (as against 49.10 per cent for cities alone). Class II towns and urban agglomerations have in them 15.97 per cent of the State's urban population. The rest of the classes, that is, III to VI, have lower ratios and put together hardly account for 22 per cent of the State's urban population.

Growth rate of urban population by size-class of towns

During the decade 1971-81, the urban population of the State has increased by 27.98 per cent as against the increase of 17.50 per cent of the entire population. In the previous decade of 1961-71, the urban population rose by 38.64 per cent. The population growth of the different towns vary due to a variety of reasons and they cannot naturally be uniform. The population growth of a town depends on several factors. For example, while some towns grow fast and become populous due to the location of a good number of industrial and commercial units in or near them, others grow because of the higher educational facilities they command or because of their being the headquarters and hence having administrative importance. Some others grow due to their being big commercial or business centres or because of their excellent transport and communication links. We observe that cities grow faster these days because of the variegated modern facilities available in them. The district and taluk headquarters keep on growing faster and some of the pilgrim and tourist centres also grow in a rapid way. The two big suburbs of Madras viz., Avadi and Ambattur, for example, have grown in the last 1971-81 decade by a very high rate of 61.09 per cent and 120.22 per cent respectively due to their industrial importance. The pilgrim town of Rameswaram whose population increased by 146.36 per cent during 1961-71, has also witnessed a high increase of 66.68 per cent in 1971-81. The population of the temple town of Tiruvannamalai has increased by 45.77 per cent in 1971-81 and the industrial Township of Neyveli has grown by 50.98 per cent. The suburban towns of Pallipalaiyam and Surampatti, adjoining the new district headquarter town of Erode, have grown by very high ratios of 147.05 and 167.25 per cent respectively. These are but a few examples to reveal the wide

variations in the decadal growth rates of some towns due to certain influencing factors. The population of the towns belonging to the size classes I and II have recorded higher decadal growth rates when compared to the other classes, particularly in the last three decades. In the other classes, no remarkable increase is noticed in the last three decades, though there are a few exceptions like 38.73 per cent growth of urban population of Class III towns during 1961-71 and 159.37 per cent in the case of Class VI towns during 1961-71 (vide Table 3.12). Decrease in the population of towns of certain smaller classes in some of the decades is also a significant aspect.

Urban Agglomeration

Urban Agglomeration, a concept first introduced during 1971 census, was continued in the 1981 census also. Urban agglomeration represents the continuous urban spread of a core city or town which may even cover the contiguous urban units like cities and towns and other urban outgrowths. The definition of an 'Urban Agglomeration' is as follows: "Very often large railway colonies, university campuses, port areas, military camps, etc., come up outside the statutory limits of the city or town but adjoining it. Such areas may not by themselves qualify to be treated as towns, but if they form a continuous spread with the town, they are out-growth of the town and deserve to be treated as urban. Such towns together with their outgrowths have been treated as one urban unit and called urban agglomeration."

An urban agglomeration may constitute.

(a) A city with continuous outgrowth (the part of outgrowth being outside the statutory limits but falling within the boundaries of the adjoining village or villages).

(b) One town with similar outgrowth or two or more adjoining towns with their outgrowths as in (a); or

(c) A city and one or more adjoining towns with their outgrowths, all of which form a continuous spread.

In regard to the city of Madras, for example, a number of suburban towns like Avadi, Ambattur, Madavaram, Tambaram, Pallavaram, Tiruvottiyur, Ennore, Thiruvanmiyur, etc., are all developed areas with industrial, commercial centres and new residential colonies. No doubt, these and other suburban places fall outside the statutory boundaries of the Madras Corporation, but for practical purposes, everyone knows that these are only outgrowths of the city of Madras, and form a contiguous urban spread.

In 1971 Census, 32 urban agglomerations were recognised. Two additional urban agglomerations were recognised in 1981 Census, viz., Neyveli and Karur urban agglomerations, taking the total number of urban agglomerations to 34. Though all the 32 urban agglomerations of 1971 are continued in the 1981 census also, there have been some changes in the constituent units of a few of these urban agglomerations which are due to the recognition of new urban units in 1981 in the borders of these urban agglomerations, expansion of some towns and cities due to extension of the boundaries under their jurisdiction, etc. All the constituent units of these 34 urban agglomerations in Tamil Nadu also happen to be independent urban units. The entire area constituting an urban agglomeration is an urban spread or intense urban area with necessary economic, commercial and transport link-up. Of the 434 urban units or towns, recognised in Tamil Nadu in 1981, 223 towns are included as constituents of the 34 urban agglomerations, while the rest, viz., 211 towns stand out as separate urban units, i.e., without forming part of any urban agglomeration. Fourteen urban agglomerations have a population of one lakh and over and 13 urban agglomerations have a population of 50,000 to 99,999. Three more urban agglomerations fall under the population group of 20,000-49,999 and the remaining four are smaller. Madras urban agglomeration is the biggest with 4.3 million population. Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchchirappalli and Salem are the other four bigger urban agglomerations in the order of population, falling in the range of 5-10 lakhs. Details of urban agglomerations, the number of constituent towns in each urban agglomeration along with the population of each urban agglomeration and its core towns are presented in Table 3.13. Table A-4 presented in the 1981 Census volume containing "General Population Tables" (Part II-A) gives among other things, area and sexwise population of these urban agglomerations, along with each of their constituent units, for the nine censuses from 1901 to 1981.

Standard Urban Area

Standard Urban Area or the SUA as it is called, was first introduced in 1971 Census. The standard urban area includes a core town having 50,000 persons and above and contiguous areas of rural and urban units which have close socio-economic links with the core town and with the probability of the entire area getting fully urbanised in the next two or three decades. The standard urban area covers the extra municipal growth falling outside the statutory limits and covers also the suburbs (industrial and residential), railway colonies, civil lines, cantonments as also the villages and rural areas which are

likely to get urbanised in the course of the next two decades or so. It is reckoned as a constant statistical reporting unit for three Censuses upto 1991, and enables comparability of data in the Censuses of 1971, 1981 and 1991, irrespective of the changes that are made in the local administrative boundaries of the different units within the standard urban area.

In Tamil Nadu, 37 standard urban areas have been recognised in 1981 Census. Of this, 32 standard urban areas have been delineated in 1971 and data for them were also made available in our 1971 census publication, viz., "Part II-A Supplement" to the 'General Population Tables'. Since some other units also were later found to satisfy the prescribed criteria for standard urban areas, five additional units have been recognised in 1981. The five newly delineated standard urban areas of 1981 Census in Tamil Nadu are Ambur, Vaniyambadi, Neyveli, Valparai and Kadayanallur. The 1981 Census data for the standard urban areas are relevant to study the conversion of rural units into urban and for analysis of the trend of urbanisation within the standard urban areas.

Apart from Madras standard urban area, which, with a 1981 population of 4.63 million is the largest standard urban area in Tamil Nadu, there are two more standard urban areas with a population of just over a million and these are Madurai and Coimbatore standard urban areas. Tiruchirappalli and Salem standard urban areas have also sizable population of 0.72 and 0.68 million each respectively. Twelve standard urban areas have a population ranging from 50,000 to one lakh, 13 have a population between one and two lakhs and seven standard urban areas have population between two and five lakhs. Madras standard urban area is the biggest with the largest number of constituent units, viz., 49 urban units and 241 villages (or rural units) covering a population of 4.63 million. The other big standard urban area of the State is Madurai which has 124 constituent units (1.08 million population).

The names of all standard urban areas together with the number of their rural and urban constituent units and population are given in Table 3.14. The data relating to the standard urban areas are presented in Table A-5 in the publication entitled 'General Population Tables' (Part II-A) of 1981 Census.

Big Cities of Tamil Nadu

There has been a rapid increase in the number and population of cities in the State, particularly since Independence. There were only seven cities in 1951 and nine in 1961 which jumped to 17 in 1971 and later to 21 in 1981. Due

to heavier influx of population to these cities in recent decades, they had to accommodate almost half of the 16 million urban inhabitants of the State. The population of these 21 cities, which is growing at a comparatively faster pace, is indeed presenting new and complex challenges to the civic and other Governmental authorities in these places in regard to the ever-growing needs of housing, transport, medical services, education, recreation, water supply, sanitation, etc., and a host of other facilities. It is interesting to learn about some of the bigger ones among them. A list of all the cities along with their area, population, density and decadal growth is available in Table 3.14. Five of the bigger cities in Tamil Nadu are discussed in detail below.

MADRAS : Being a premier metropolitan centre of south India over the last many decades, Madras has grown enormously in recent years and with a population of 3.28 million now ranks fourth in the country after Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi. When the surrounding urban centres (48 other towns) are also taken into account, the Madras urban agglomeration which represents a vast expanse of urban spread reveals a population of 4.29 million.

The gradual expansion of the city in the past was very closely associated with the expansion of the British commercial interests in South India through Madras. The city, which was established in the year 1639, has grown tremendously in the years after Independence when its commercial and industrial infrastructure have widened and it also became a premier port with a vast hinterland. From about 75 sq. kms. in the beginning of the present century, the city has expanded on all the three directions, excepting the east where it is bounded by sea, and its area now stands at 170 sq. kms. The last expansion of Madras Corporation area took place in 1978 when 10 towns and 3 villages got merged with the city. The city had only about half a million population at the beginning of this century and it has grown over six times in population during the last 80 years. Industrial and business houses of every description are now found within the city and its many suburbs. A large textile mill and a premier railway coach manufacturing unit are in the city, while a variety of industries including petroleum refinery, fertilizer, automobile and its ancillaries, light and heavy engineering units, teleprinter, defence equipment, surgical instruments, power generation, etc., units are all located around the city. The population of the city increased by 47.06 per cent in 1961-71 and by 27.35 per cent during 1971-81. The population density of the city is now 19,274 per sq. km. and this reveals the extent of population concentration here. Due to the limited scope for fur-

ther expansion, a large number of new residential colonies and industrial houses have how sprung up in the suburban areas like Avadi, Ambattur, Tiruvottiyur (which have become independent cities) and other towns like Madhavaram, Pallavaram, Tambaram etc. The extension of urban influence of Madras in the neighbouring areas of Saidapet taluk, which encircles Madras, has resulted in turning the bulk of the population of this taluk as urban (85 per cent—urban), leaving only 15 per cent as rural population. This taluk has 32 towns which are the constituent units of the Madras urban agglomeration. The neighbouring Sriperumbudur taluk, which also has 16 constituent suburban centres of the Madras urban agglomeration, has over half of its population in the urban centres.

MADURAI : The ancient pilgrim centre and temple town of Madurai, which was once the seat of the Pandian Kingdom many centuries ago, has grown in status over the years and has now come to occupy the second place in population among the cities of the State. With a population of 820,891 in 1981 and having increased by nearly eight times since 1901, this city, now administered by a Municipal Corporation, can be expected to touch the million mark in the none too distant future. Spread over an area of 46.99 sq. kms., Madurai city has been growing rapidly in the last 3-4 decades. It has a density of 17,469 persons per sq. km. With its beautiful and lofty towers containing stone images, the ancient and big temple of Madurai, dedicated to Goddess Meenakshi, contains several exquisite and famous sculptures. The classical beauty of the architecture in the temple, including the ones in the Hall of Thousand Pillars, has made European scholars refer Madurai as "Athens of South India". Madurai is also well known for its textile mills, handlooms, transport workshops, etc. and it is also a big business and commercial centre. It is recognised as a seat of learning from very early times. Madurai has also expanded in the last decade with the addition of eight towns, (three in part and five fully) within the Corporation area. There are also a few important suburban areas, in all of which nearly a lakh of persons dwell. The city is growing in importance and stature and has great attractions for tourists also.

COIMBATORE : A leading industrial city of the south, Coimbatore known for its many textile mills and engineering industries has come to be known as "Manchester of South India". Its rapid growth and expansion has resulted in a high decadal increase of over 50 per cent in each of the four decades between 1931 to 1971. During 1971-81, there was an expansion of the

city when seven towns (including Singanallur Municipality with several textile mills) were brought under its jurisdiction. The city came to be administered by a Municipal Corporation after the 1981 Census. With a population of 704,514, spread over 105.60 sq. kms. in 1981, the present density of population of Coimbatore is 6,672 persons per sq. km. The city is expanding further in all the directions and it has a number of suburban towns contiguous to the city, which put together have a little over two lakh persons. The present population of Coimbatore urban agglomeration, including 16 neighbouring towns of this city, is 920,355. This urban agglomeration can be described as the second important industrial complex in the State. Though textiles occupy a prominent place, a wide spectrum of industrial goods like electric pumpsets, agricultural implements, textile machinery, chemicals, cement and cement products, artificial fibres, consumer durables, etc., are produced here.

TIRUCHCHIRAPPALLI: Lying on the banks of the famous Cauvery river, this old city is of considerable historical importance. It is an important city in the south and lies at a distance of about 350 kms. south-west of Madras on the Madras-Madurai rail route. On the Cauvery delta, Tiruchchirappalli commands an important position and the deltaic portion with branching of numerous canals begins a few kilometres east of this city. With a population of 104,721 in 1901, this city has gradually grown in the last 80 years and has a population of 362,045 as per 1981 Census. It is spread over an area of 23.26 sq. kms: with a high population density of 15,565 persons per sq. km. The city's rock fort, the nucleus around which the city area has expanded over the years, was the scene of many a warfare. The small temple over the fort here and the famous Vaishnavite temple in Srirangam (a neighbouring town across the Cauvery), and Saivaite shrine at Thiruvanaikaval provide attractions for the large number of pilgrims who flock to this city. The city's phenomenal growth in recent years is due to the setting up of some industrial ventures in and around the city like the boiler plant of the Bharat Heavy Electricals, sugar and cement manufacturing units, an ordnance factory, the nearby railway workshop, etc., besides a host of other industries ancillary to these. With a number of educational institutions, this city has also served as an important seat of learning. The setting up of the Regional Engineering College in Tuvagudi on the outskirts of this city and the establishment of the Bharati Dasan University here recently have added new dimensions to the educational opportunities of this urban complex. The city has expanded further as reflected in the population of the urban agglomeration (609,548) which

includes besides the core city, the temple town of Srirangam, Railway Workshop area (Ponmalai) and colonies, besides industrial suburbs of Thiruverambur, Tuvagudi, etc. The city and suburb also provide good tourist attractions.

SALEM : Thanks to the setting up of the Salem steel plant in the 1970s, the importance of this city has increased in recent years. Lying in the main rail route of Madras-Coimbatore at about 350 kms. south-west of Madras, Salem is famous for its cotton and silk handloom industry, particularly goods like dhothies, sarees, towels, bedsheets, etc. A few textile mills also exist around the city. Salem city which had a population of 52,244 in 1921, nearly doubled and crossed the one lakh mark in 1931 Census. It has grown consistently in the last three decades and now has a population of 361,394. It is an important business and commercial centre and has influenced the development of a number of suburban centres. The Salem urban agglomeration, which has 18 constituent units, apart from the core city of Salem, has a population of 518,615 and extends over 97.84 sq. kms.

The other big urban complex of the State having more than two lakhs of population as per 1981 Census are the Tirunelveli urban agglomeration (323,344) . Erode urban agglomeration (275,991), Tuticorin urban agglomeration (250,677), Vellore urban agglomeration (247,041) and Tiruppur urban agglomeration (215,859).

The subtle differences that are prevalent in the growth rates of individual cities and towns on the one hand and those between urban and rural areas on the other are obvious from the above discussion. Due to the varying conditions of life in them, the social and economic characteristics of the population widely differ between the rural and urban areas, and the standards of life differ substantially. The predominance of agriculture in the rural areas and the increasing role of trade and commerce, manufacturing industry, transport and communication services, construction, electricity, etc. in the urban centres are also well-known. Such socio-economic variations have also affected certain demographic aspects like ratio of males and females, age distribution of population, migration (which is mostly urbanward), literacy and educational level and even religion and language to some extent. Some of these interesting differences, in addition to what we have observed so far, will be revealed in the subsequent chapters.

TABLE 3.1

PERCENTAGE OF URBAN POPULATION TO TOTAL POPULATION IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU, 1901-81

Year	Urban population and their percentage to total population			
	India		Tamil Nadu	
	Population	Percentage	Population	Percentage
1	2	3	4	5
1901	25,851,873	10.84	2,724,781	14.15
1911	25,941,633	10.29	3,149,137	15.07
1921	28,086,167	11.18	3,428,079	15.85
1931	33,455,989	11.99	4,230,382	18.02
1941	44,153,297	13.86	5,173,682	19.70
1951 . . .	62,443,709	17.29	7,333,525	24.35
1961	78,936,603	17.97	8,990,528	26.69
1971	109,113,977	19.91	12,464,834	30.26
1981	159,727,357*	23.31*	15,951,875	32.95

*Includes projected population of Assam.

The percentage works out to 23.70 when Assam is excluded.

TABLE 3.–

PERCENTAGE OF URBAN POPULATION TO TOTAL POPULATION IN INDIA AND STATES

Sl. No.	India/State/Union Territory	Percentage of urban population to total population	
		1971	1981
1	2	3	4
INDIA		19.91	23.31*
States			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19.31	23.32
2.	Assam	8.87	10.29
3.	Bihar	10.00	12.47
4.	Gujarat	28.08	31.10
5.	Haryana	17.66	21.88
6.	Himachal Pradesh	6.99	7.61
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	18.59	21.05
8.	Karnataka	24.31	28.89
9.	Kerala	16.24	18.74
10.	Madhya Pradesh	16.29	20.29
11.	Maharashtra	31.17	35.03
12.	Manipur	13.19	26.42
13.	Meghalaya	14.55	18.07
14.	Nagaland	9.95	15.52
15.	Orissa	8.41	11.79
16.	Punjab	23.73	27.68
17.	Rajasthan	17.63	21.05
18.	Sikkim	9.37	16.15
19.	Tamil Nadu	30.26	32.95
20.	Tripura	10.43	10.99
21.	Uttar Pradesh	14.02	17.95
22.	West Bengal	24.75	26.47

TABLE 3.2

PERCENTAGE OF URBAN POPULATION TO TOTAL POPULATION IN INDIA AND STATES

Sl. No.	India/State/Union Territory	Percentage of urban population to total population	
		1971	1981
1	2	3	4
Union Territories			
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands . . .	22.77	26.30
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.70	6.56
3.	Chandigarh	90.55	93.63
4.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	..	6.67
5.	Delhi	89.70	92.73
6.	Goa, Daman & Diu	26.44	32.37
7.	Lakshadweep	..	46.28
8.	Mizoram	11.36	24.67
9.	Pondicherry	42.04	52.28

*Includes projected population of 1981 for Assam, where Census was not conducted.

TABLE 3.3

AVERAGE POPULATION PER VILLAGE IN THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES

State/Union Territory	Average village population
1	2
INDIA*	911
States	
1. Andhra Pradesh	1,500
2. Bihar	906
3. Gujarat	1,296
4. Haryana	1,497
5. Himachal Pradesh	235
6. Jammu & Kashmir	730
7. Karnataka	977
8. Kerala	16,967
9. Madhya Pradesh	583
10. Maharashtra	1,037
11. Manipur	514
12. Meghalaya	223
13. Nagaland	589
14. Orissa	500
15. Punjab	984
16. Rajasthan	774
17. Sikkim	603
18. Tamil Nadu	2,050
19. Tripura	2,135
20. Uttar Pradesh	808
21. West Bengal	1,055

*Excludes Assam.

TABLE 3.3

AVERAGE POPULATION PER VILLAGE IN THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES

State/Union Territory	Average village population
1	2
Union Territories	
1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	283
2. Arunachal Pradesh	181
3. Chandigarh	1,199
4. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1,382
5. Delhi	2,113
6. Goa, Daman & Diu	1,784
7. Lakshadweep	3,089
8. Mizoram	516
9. Pondicherry	991

TABLE 3.4

NUMBER OF VILLAGES (INHABITED AND UNINHABITED) AND THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER INHABITED VILLAGE IN THE STATE AND DISTRICT

Sl. No.	State/District	Number of villages		Average number of persons per inhabited village in	
		Inhabited	Uninhabited	1971	1981
1	2	3	4	5	6
	TAMIL NADU . . .	15,831	981	1,826	2,050
1.	Madras . . .	..	..	..	..
2.	Chengalpattu . .	1,856	99	1,067	1,190
3.	North Arcot . .	1,873	152	1,592	1,815
4.	South Arcot . .	2,280	91	1,331	1,554
5.	Dharmapuri . .	1,065	102	1,469	1,699
6.	Salem . . .	972	93	2,294	2,517
7.	Periyar . . .	481	23	3,024	3,354
8.	Coimbatore .	447	18	3,020	3,392
9.	Nilgiri . . .	43	2	5,971	7,496
10.	Madurai . . .	1,000	101	2,580	2,892
11.	Tiruchchirappalli . .	894	86	2,791	2,985
12.	Thanjavur . . .	1,728	35	1,632	1,809
13.	Pudukkottai . .	747	13	1,122	1,343
14.	Ramanathapuram .	1,411	115	1,498	1,697
15.	Tirunelveli . . .	947	44	2,227	2,467
16.	Kanniyakumari . .	87	7	15,426	13,539

TABLE 3.5

NUMBER OF VILLAGES IN DIFFERENT SIZE CLASSES OF POPULATION, 1981

Sl. No.	State/District	Total No. of inhabited villages	Number of villages in the population size						
			Less than 200	200-499	500-999	1,000-1,999	2,000-4,999	5,000-9,999	10,000 and above
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
TAMIL NADU		15,831	794	1,732	3,172	4,570	4,381	1,000	182
1.	Chengalpattu	1,856	155	405	545	462	251	34	4
2.	North Arcot	1,873	59	150	439	634	507	77	7
3.	South Arcot	2,280	61	239	628	789	506	53	4
4.	Dharmapuri	1,065	109	198	206	183	320	46	3
5.	Salem	972	55	109	143	205	336	108	16
6.	Periyar	481	6	23	64	118	159	92	19
7.	Coimbatore	447	10	13	24	99	213	79	9
8.	Nilgiri	43	..	2	3	3	9	18	8
9.	Madurai	1,000	62	101	132	216	316	140	33
10.	Tiruchchirappalli	894	16	15	62	198	498	99	6
11.	Thanjavur	1,728	49	104	343	700	469	61	2
12.	Pudukkottai	747	92	130	153	211	146	14	1
13.	Ramanathapuram	1,411	88	154	279	479	348	57	6
14.	Tirunelveli	947	29	87	149	272	297	100	13
15.	Kanniyakumari	87	3	2	2	1	6	22	51

TABLE 3.6

PERCENTAGE OF VILLAGES AND POPULATION BY SIZE-CLASS OF VILLAGES, 1981

State/District	Less than 500		500-999		1,000-1,999	
	Percentage of villages	Percentage of population	Percentage of villages	Percentage of population	Percentage of villages	Percentage of population
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
TAMIL NADU	15.95	2.16	20.04	7.24	28.87	20.30
Chengalpattu	30.17	7.34	29.37	17.77	24.89	29.28
North Arcot	11.16	1.75	23.44	9.50	33.85	26.58
South Arcot	13.16	2.65	27.54	13.29	34.61	31.28
Dharmapuri	28.83	4.53	19.34	8.12	17.18	14.75
Salem	16.87	1.84	14.71	4.25	21.09	12.04
Periyar	6.02	0.57	13.31	2.97	24.53	10.29
Coimbatore	5.15	0.41	5.37	1.13	22.15	9.89
Nilgiri	4.65	0.22	6.98	0.70	6.98	1.26
Madurai	16.30	1.43	13.20	3.43	21.60	10.84
Tiruchchirappalli	3.47	0.25	6.93	1.78	22.15	11.53
Thanjavur	8.85	1.35	19.85	8.51	40.51	32.44
Pudukkottai	29.72	5.45	20.48	10.97	28.25	30.62
Ramanathapuram	17.15	2.68	19.77	8.56	33.95	29.11
Tirunelveli	12.25	1.45	15.74	4.95	28.72	17.44
Kanniyakumari	5.74	0.05	2.30	0.15	1.15	0.10

TABLE 3.6

PERCENTAGE OF VILLAGES AND POPULATION BY SIZE-CLASS OF VILLAGES, 1981

State/District	2,000-4,999		5,000-9,999		10,000+	
	Percentage of villages	Percentage of population	Percentage of villages	Percentage of population	Percentage of villages	Percentage of population
1	8	9	10	11	12	13
TAMIL NADU	27.67	41.35	6.32	20.41	1.15	8.54
Chengalpattu	13.52	33.08	1.83	10.33	0.22	2.20
North Arcot	27.07	45.36	4.11	14.48	0.37	2.33
South Arcot	22.19	41.64	2.33	9.47	0.17	1.67
Dharmapuri	30.05	55.13	4.32	15.58	0.28	1.89
Salem	34.57	43.67	11.11	29.70	1.65	8.50
Periyar	33.06	31.35	19.13	39.33	3.95	15.49
Coimbatore	47.65	45.70	17.67	33.86	2.01	9.01
Nilgiri	20.93	10.14	41.86	44.68	18.60	43.00
Madurai	31.60	35.81	14.00	32.79	3.30	15.70
Tiruchchirappalli	55.71	59.18	11.07	24.61	0.67	2.65
Thanjavur	27.14	44.77	3.53	12.10	0.12	0.83
Pudukkottai	19.55	43.06	1.87	8.90	0.13	1.00
Ramanathapuram	24.66	40.95	4.04	15.04	0.43	3.66
Tirunelveli	31.36	39.82	10.56	28.84	1.37	7.50
Kanniyakumari	6.90	1.66	25.29	13.71	58.62	84.33

TABLE 3.7

PERCENTAGE VARIATION IN RURAL POPULATION, 1901-81

Year	Persons	Decade variation	Percentage decade variation
1	2	3	4
1901	16,527,849	..	
1911	17,753,479	+1,225,630	+7.42
1921	18,200,439	+446,960	+2.52
1931	19,241,717	+1,041,278	+5.72
1941	21,093,825	+1,852,108	+9.63
1951	22,785,522	+1,691,697	+8.02
1961	24,696,425	+1,910,903	+8.39
1971	28,734,334	+4,037,909	+16.35
1981	32,456,202	+3,721,868	+12.95

TABLE 3.8

DISTRIBUTION OF TOWNS AND THE PERCENTAGE OF 1981 URBAN POPULATION IN EACH CLASS FOR TAMIL NADU

Size class of towns	Number of urban units or towns	Population	Percentage of population of each class to total urban population
1	2	3	4
All Classes	434	15,951,875	100.00
I	21	7,831,844	49.10
II	41	2,747,071	17.22
III	89	2,757,964	17.29
IV	123	1,765,276	11.07
V	90	645,126	4.04
VI	70	204,594	1.28

TABLE 3.9

NUMBER OF TOWNS UNDER EACH CLASS IN TAMIL NADU, 1901-81

Year	I to VI classes	Number of towns under each size class					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1901	133	3	6	17	58	47	2
1911	162	3	6	23	60	63	7
1921	189	3	9	22	65	74	16
1931	222	4	9	31	69	95	14
1941	257	5	10	35	83	108	16
1951	297	7	11	56	99	97	27
1961	339	9	19	61	119	95	36
1971	439	17	27	79	118	97	101
1981	434	21	41	89	123	90	70

TABLE 3.10

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION LIVING IN TOWNS OF 20,000 AND MORE INHABITANTS FROM 1901 TO 1981 IN TAMIL NADU

Year	Population of towns with 20,000 and more	Total population	Percentage
1	2	3	4
1901	1,552,514	19,252,630	8.06
1911	1,793,536	20,902,616	8.58
1921	1,896,955	21,628,518	8.77
1931	2,527,438	23,472,099	10.77
1941	3,115,683	26,267,507	11.86
1951	5,121,648	30,119,047	17.00
1961	6,541,364	33,686,953	19.42
1971	9,777,778	41,199,168	23.73
1981	13,336,879	48,408,077	27.55

TABLE 3.11

PERCENTAGE OF URBAN POPULATION BY THE SIX CLASSES OF TOWNS, 1901-1981

Census Year	Percentage distribution of urban population by class of towns						
	All classes	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1901	100.00	26.43	12.87	17.68	29.80	12.97	0.25
1911	100.00	24.65	11.27	21.04	26.77	15.35	0.92
1921	100.00	22.93	14.84	17.57	26.26	16.51	1.89
1931	100.00	25.39	13.60	20.75	22.19	16.87	1.20
1941	100.00	27.76	12.36	20.10	22.71	15.92	1.15
1951	100.00	35.50	10.97	23.37	18.60	10.18	1.38
1961	100.00	37.76	14.15	20.85	18.07	7.95	1.22
1971	100.00	43.80	13.78	20.86	13.51	5.76	2.29
1981	100.00	49.10	17.22	17.29	11.07	4.04	1.28

TABLE 3.12

NUMBER OF TOWNS WITH THEIR POPULATION IN EACH CLASS AND THE PERCENTAGE DECADE VARIATION, 1901-1981

Year	Total Urban population			Class I			Class II			Class III		
	No. of towns	Population	Percentage decade variation	No. of towns	Population	Percentage decade variation	No. of towns	Population	Percentage decade variation	No. of towns	Population	Percentage decade variation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1901 . .	133	2,724,781	..	3	720,051	..	6	350,650	..	17	481,813	..
1911 . .	162	3,149,137	15.57	3	776,302	7.81	6	354,747	1.17	23	662,487	37.50
1921 . .	189	3,428,079	8.86	3	786,227	1.28	9	508,557	43.36	22	602,171	—9.10
1931 . .	222	4,230,382	23.40	4	1,074,270	36.64	9	575,447	13.15	31	877,721	45.76
1941 . .	257	5,173,682	22.30	5	1,436,241	33.69	10	639,637	11.15	35	1,039,805	18.47
1951 . .	297	7,333,525	41.75	7	2,603,552	81.28	11	804,294	25.74	56	1,713,802	64.82
1961 . .	339	8,990,528	22.59	9	3,394,541	30.38	19	1,272,589	58.22	61	1,874,234	9.36
1971 . .	439	12,464,834	38.64	17	5,459,942	60.84	27	1,717,651	34.97	79	2,600,185	38.73
1981 . .	434	15,951,875	27.98	21	7,831,844	43.44	41	2,747,071	59.93	89	2,757,964	6.07

TABLE 3.12

NUMBER OF TOWNS WITH THEIR POPULATION IN EACH CLASS AND THE PERCENTAGE DECADE VARIATION, 1901-1981

Year	Class IV			Class V			Class VI		
	No. of towns	Population	Percentage decade variation	No. of towns	Population	Percentage decade variation	No. of towns	Population	Percentage decade variation
1	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1901 . . .	58	812,037	..	47	353,351	..	2	6,879	..
1911 . . .	60	843,125	3.83	63	483,475	36.83	7	29,001	321.59
1921 . . .	65	900,114	6.76	74	566,135	17.10	16	64,875	123.70
1931 . . .	69	938,760	4.29	95	713,656	26.06	14	50,528	—22.11
1941 . . .	83	1,174,809	25.14	108	823,654	15.41	16	59,536	17.83
1951 . . .	99	1,364,491	16.15	97	746,420	—9.38	27	100,966	69.59
1961 . . .	119	1,624,376	19.05	95	714,812	—4.23	36	109,976	8.92
1971 . . .	118	1,683,993	3.67	97	717,820	0.42	101	285,243	159.37
1981 . . .	123	1,765,276	4.83	90	645,126	—10.13	70	204,594	—28.27

TABLE 3.13

URBAN AGGLOMERATION, THEIR CONSTITUENT UNITS AND POPULATION

Name of urban agglomeration	Total no. of urban units in the urban agglomeration	Population of urban agglomeration	Population of core town only
1	2	3	4
1. Madras	49	4,289,347	3,276,622
2. Bhavani	3	80,472	28,898
3. Erode	7	275,991	142,252
4. Kanchipuram	4	145,254	130,926
5. Vellore	8	247,041	174,247
6. Arcot	3	94,363	38,826
7. Gudiyattam	3	80,674	75,044
8. Vaniyambadi	4	75,042	59,107
9. Neyveli	3	98,866	88,000
10. Chidambaram	2	62,543	55,920
11. Mallur	2	10,602	7,614
12. Mallasamudram	5	30,052	12,151
13. Salem	19	518,615	361,394
14. Vembadithalam	2	5,667	4,323
15. Tiruppur	6	215,859	165,223
16. Coimbatore	17	920,355	704,514
17. Pollachi	6	114,971	82,354
18. Coonoor	6	92,242	44,750
19. Devarshola	2	43,221	17,775
20. Naduvattam	2	18,032	12,139
21. Kotagiri	2	32,945	24,177
22. Madurai	10	907,732	820,891
23. Palani	2	68,389	64,444
24. Karur	2	93,810	72,692

TABLE 3.13

URBAN AGGLOMERATION, THEIR CONSTITUENT UNITS AND POPULATION

Name of urban agglomeration	Total no. of urban units in the urban agglomeration	Population of urban agglomeration	Population of core town only
1	2	3	4
25. Tiruchchirappalli . . .	12	609,548	362,045
26. Kumbakonam	2	141,794	132,832
27. Nagappattinam . . .	3	90,650	82,828
28. Karaikkudi	7	100,141	66,993
29. Tondi	2	16,204	11,148
30. Sivakasi	2	83,072	59,827
31. Tuticorin	10	250,677	192,949
32. Tirunelveli	11	323,344	128,850
33. Ambasamudram	2	52,591	29,761
34. Tiruchchendur	3	68,884	24,233

TABLE 3.14

STANDARD URBAN AREAS WITH THE NUMBER OF CONSTITUENT UNITS AND POPULATION

Sl. No.	Name of Standard urban area	No. of units			Population in 1981
		Total	Rural	Urban	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Madras	241	192	49	4,628,879
2.	Kanchipuram	26	22	4	161,979
3.	Ambur	10	9	1	87,194
4.	Arcot, Ranipettai & Walajapet	13	10	3	108,882
5.	Gudiyattam	7	4	3	86,049
6.	Tiruvannamalai	1	..	1	89,462
7.	Vaniyambadi	23	19	4	124,361
8.	Vellore	24	15	9	306,146
9.	Cuddalore	20	19	1	159,473
10.	Neyveli	29	25	4	181,732
11.	Villupuram	1	..	1	77,091
12.	Salem	78	56	22	682,674
13.	Erode	8	1	7	279,168
14.	Coimbatore	42	25	17	1,063,940
15.	Pollachi	9	3	6	121,044
16.	Tiruppur	14	8	6	249,632
17.	Valparai	1	..	1	115,452
18.	Ootacamund	2	1	1	87,268
19.	Bodinayakkanur	4	3	1	75,757
20.	Dindigul	7	6	1	200,019
21.	Madurai	124	114	10	1,082,061
22.	Karur	5	3	2	104,524
23.	Tiruchchirappalli	53	40	13	723,583
24.	Kumbakonam	17	15	2	181,557
25.	Mayuram	2	1	1	71,877
26.	Nagappattinam	16	13	3	120,250
27.	Thanjavur	4	3	1	196,480

TABLE 3.14

STANDARD URBAN AREAS WITH THE NUMBER OF CONSTITUENT UNITS AND POPULATION

Sl. No.	Name of Standard urban area	No. of units			Population in 1981
		Total	Rural	Urban	
1	2	3	4	5	6
28.	Pudukkottai	7	6	1	99,637
29.	Aruppukkottai	10	9	1	86,927
30.	Karaikkudi	31	24	7	126,021
31.	Rajapalaiyam	13	12	1	119,362
32.	Srivilliputtur	1	..	1	61,458
33.	Virudunagai	14	12	2	92,445
34.	Kadaiyanallur	1	..	1	60,306
35.	Tirunelveli	34	23	11	346,239
36.	Tuticorin	13	3	10	255,089
37.	Nagercoil	14	12	2	302,025

TABLE 3.15

CITIES IN TAMIL NADU AND THEIR POPULATION, 1981

	Name of City	Civic Status	Area in Km²	1981 population	Density per Km²	Percentage decade variation
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Madras	M.C.	170.00	3,276,622	19,274	27.35
2.	Madurai	M.C.	46.99	820,891	17,469	29.48
3.	Coimbatore	M	105.60	704,514	6,672	24.63
4.	Salem	M	19.93	361,394	18,133	17.06
5.	Tiruchchirappalli	M	23.26	362,045	15,565	17.78
6.	Tuticorin	M	13.38	192,949	14,421	24.23
7.	Thanjavur	M	29.15	184,015	6,313	30.93
8.	Vellore	M	10.54	174,247	16,532	25.28
9.	Nagercoil	M	24.27	171,648	7,072	21.49
10.	Tiruppur	M	43.52	165,223	3,796	45.83
11.	Dindigul	M	14.01	164,103	11,713	27.78
12.	Erode	M	8.35	142,252	17,036	35.34
13.	Tiruvottiyur	M	21.37	134,014	6,271	61.75
14.	Kumbakonam	M	11.53	132,832	11,521	17.42
15.	Kanchipuram	M	11.69	130,926	11,200	18.32
16.	Tirunelveli	M	15.15	128,850	8,505	18.76
17.	Cuddalore	M	27.71	127,625	4,606	25.94
18.	Avadi	T.S.	25.62	124,701	4,867	61.09
19.	Ambattur	T.S.	38.99	115,901	2,973	120.22
20.	Valparai	T.S.	393.68	115,452	293	21.30
21.	Rajapalaiyam	M	11.36	101,640	8,947	16.89

M.C. — Municipal Corporation, M—Municipality, T.S. — Township.

CHAPTER IV

ARE THE NUMBER OF MEN AND WOMEN BALANCED ?

After knowing about the population of a place, the next important question that is generally asked is how many among them are males and how many are females. Sex composition of the population is one of the basic characteristics, which has a close bearing on the socio-economic and demographic aspects of the society. In this chapter, we are going to learn about the proportion of males and females as also about the distribution of population in the different age-groups. Data on the age composition of population are also of vital significance for preparation of plans for economic development, estimating future population in the different age brackets, calculation of life tables and life expectancy rates, etc. Data on sex ratio and age groups are therefore of immense use to planners, demographers, educationists, research scholars and economists.

Sex ratio

This well known ratio which represents the proportion of the members belonging to one sex to a thousand of the other sex is an important measure that indicates the balance of the sexes in a given population. In Indian Censuses, sex ratio represents the number of females for every 1,000 males. But, in a number of other countries of the world, including the United States of America, the sex ratio represents the number of males per 100 or 1,000 females. The Indian definition is used in our discussion here.

Sex ratio may be higher, lower or equal. When the ratio of sex is 1,000, the population is said to be perfectly balanced with equal number of males and females. But, no country or community has generally such a ratio of sexes. Equality of sexes in a population is more an ideal situation, which never exists in reality. Often, there are more or less of females as compared to males. Sex ratios of more than 1,000 in the Indian context would represent a larger number of females than males. Sex ratio under 1,000 would mean that there are lesser number of females when compared to the male population. Very high sex ratios of 1,100 or more would mean that females far out-number the male population and very low ones of say, below 900 or 800 would mean a male predominance over females in a society.

Imbalance in the sex ratio causes a variety of social problems. For example, excess of males or females in the marriageable

ages may create a situation when a few may not be able to get married and get suitable life partners. If the males far outnumber the females, quite a number of males may have to remain unmarried. The growth rate of population is directly related to the population in certain age groups. The number of married females in the reproductive age-groups is said to influence population growth. Hence, greater imbalance in the sex ratio, especially of reproductive age group, would adversely affect the population growth, work force and the economy as a whole.

Even at birth, the sex ratio is generally found to be unequal. Demographers all over the world believe that sex ratio at birth has stabilised around 952, more or less universally. This means that only 952 female babies are born for every 1,000 male births. Demographers of the western countries say the same fact in a different manner and according to them, 105 live male babies are born for every 100 live female babies. Even if one assumes that an equal number of male and female children are born (which is known to be contrary to the natural and biological phenomena), the chances of their survival differ at different periods of their growth. This is because at different ages, males and females are exposed to varying hazards. For example, wars and armed conflicts, epidemics to which one particular sex is exposed, hazardous work that one sex or a group of population in working age confronts and certain types of mortality peculiar to females including maternal mortality, etc., bring about population variation at the different ages. Any war or conflict between countries takes away a heavier toll of men in the younger age groups. Migration for higher education and employment outside the usual places of habitation also leads to sex imbalance. There is also frequent change in the sex ratio at different age groups due to mortality. Due to poor and inadequate medical facilities deaths among women of child-bearing ages is high in the developing countries, including ours. As per 1981 census (based on 5% sample data), sex ratio of children born is 917 in the whole of Tamil Nadu—919 in rural areas and 914 in the urban areas. This is much below the generally accepted figure of 952. At the all India level, sex ratio of children ever born is much lower, viz., 896.

Sex ratio in India and other countries

Because of several reasons including differentials in fertility and mortality between sexes in the different ages, there are wide variations in the sex ratio between the different countries. Even within a country the sex ratio is found to vary between the different regions. The sex ratio is generally found to be high in the economically advanced countries while it is low in the developing

and under developed countries. Countries like United States of America (1,058), United Kingdom (1,053), Japan (1,034), East Germany (1,128), West Germany (1,093) and U.S.S.R. (1,160) are among the countries having high sex-ratio, i.e. excess of females. In countries like India, Afghanistan (945), Bangla Desh (945), Iran (942), Korea (966), Sri Lanka (945), Egypt (964), Philippines (977), Syria (965) and also other under-developed countries of Africa and Latin America, a predominant male population is found. The low sex ratio is also explained as due to lower status accorded to women in our country, the usual tendency to conceal the existence of unmarried females, improper attention given to the upbringing of female children and consequent higher mortality rate among females.

Why do the advanced countries have a high sex ratio? The reasons generally adduced are that in these countries the birth rate is moderate to low, the infant death and maternal death rates are low, the female children are given good medical care similar to male children and the male death rates are higher than the female death rates at every age. The initial numerical excess of the males is progressively reduced and in the older ages, females out-number males in these countries.

Sex ratio in India and Tamil Nadu

According to the 1981 Census, the sex ratio of our country is 933 females per 1,000 males (including Assam). There are more males than females in the country and this has been so right from the beginning of the century (in 1901). Table 4.1 gives the comparative sex ratio in India and Tamil Nadu in every census from 1901 to 1981, separately for the total, rural and urban areas. The sex ratio has revealed a declining trend since 1901, except for marginal increase in 1951 (to 946 from 945 in 1941) and also in 1981, when it has gone up by three points to 933 from 930 in 1971. Since there is a greater concentration of males in urban areas due to migration in search of jobs, etc., the sex-ratio in the urban areas is invariably lower in every census as compared to the rural sex ratio.

The sex ratio in Tamil Nadu since 1901 has always been higher than for the country as a whole. In 1901, it was 1,044 which represents more females than males. The predominance of females over the male population has been an important characteristic of Tamil Nadu population till the 1951 Census. It was only in 1961 census that the sex ratio became adverse to women and fell below 1,000 level to 992. It went down further to 978 in 1971 and was marginally lower still at 977 in 1981. The State's sex ratio in the urban areas has consistently been lower

in all the censuses from 1911 than the corresponding rural sex ratios and in 1981 it was 956 as compared to 987 in rural areas. The decline in the sex ratio of Tamil Nadu has been somewhat faster than that in the country as a whole, over the decades. It is difficult to precisely pinpoint the reasons for this trend.

Sex ratio in the country and the States/Union Territories

Sex ratio is found to be very low in some States and Union Territories as compared to others. Kerala is the only State where the sex ratio exceeds 1,000. With a ratio of 1,032 Kerala tops the States and Union Territories in regard to sex ratio. It is the only State to have recorded a higher sex ratio of over 1,000 in all the past nine censuses continuously, right from the 1901 Census. Considering the 22 States alone, we notice that lower sex ratio of less than 900 in 1981 are revealed in Uttar Pradesh (885), the newly added State of Sikkim (835), Punjab (879), Haryana (870), Jammu and Kashmir (892) and Nagaland (863). If we take the Union Territories, very low sex ratios of even 760 and 769 are recorded in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Chandigarh respectively. While male migrants to Andamans in larger numbers might be the reason for this ratio there, the low ratio in Chandigarh Union Territory is due to the fact that it is almost fully an urban centre with larger educational and employment opportunities and it happens to be the headquarters of the two States of Punjab and Haryana, besides that of the Union Territory of Chandigarh itself. In other words, there might be influx of more male population than females for educational and employment purposes.

In the rural areas of almost all the States/Union Territories, we find the sex ratio to be higher than in the urban areas. In the State of Tripura as also the Union Territories of Chandigarh and Pondicherry, we find the peculiarity of a higher sex ratio in the urban areas as compared to the rural areas. Very high gaps between the rural and urban sex ratios, with the latter ratios in particular being very poor are noticed in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim. These are States with international borders and we find that there is a predominance of male population in these areas.

Sex ratio in the Districts

Variation in sex ratio is observed among the 16 districts of the State (vide Table 4.3). While the ratio is the highest in Tirunelveli district (1,044 females per 1,000 males) and high in the other two neighbouring districts of Ramanathapuram (1,023) and Pudukkottai (1,007), it is the lowest in Madras City (i.e.,

Madras district), viz., 934. Barring these three districts where the female population is more than that of males, all the other 13 districts of Tamil Nadu have higher male population than the females. Nine of the 16 districts have recorded less than the State average sex ratio of 977 and they are all in the northern and western parts of the State with the exception of North Arcot. The sourthern districts have revealed a comparatively higher sex ratio than the rest.

The urban sex ratio generally tends to be in favour of males due to sex-selective migration, viz., that of males. An exception to this general principle is seen in Kanniyakumari district, in the urban areas of which the sex ratio (995) represents a higher proportion of females as compared to rural areas (983). While in Salem district, the sex ratio is equal in both rural and urban areas (949), the difference between rural and urban ratios is just one in Thanjavur and North Arcot districts. In the rest of the districts, the urban ratio shows male domination as compared to the rural ratio. The differences between the rural and urban sex ratios are found to be higher in the case of Nilgiri, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and Chengalpattu districts than the rest.

Migration and sex ratio differences

Migration of people, particularly of youth in search of higher educational and employment opportunities, is more pronounced in recent times. An increasing mobility is observed among modern youth and this is mostly seen among the males. The sex ratio of the 'sending' areas tends therefore, to be higher and the 'receiving' areas lower. More females are generally left out in the rural areas while more of men choose to live in the urban areas. Kanniyakumari district is an exception in that, there is higher sex ratio in the urban areas than in the rural areas. This is a small district with well developed and well connected villages where there is a high literacy rate among females too, who also freely move towards urban areas. There are five towns in this district including the city of Nagercoil. Barring Agastiswaram taluk in which the city of Nagercoil exists and Thovala which is fully rural, in the other two taluks (Vilvankod and Kalkulam), the urban sex ratio is higher than the rural sex ratio (Vide Table 4.4).

In 36 out of the 151 taluks of Tamil Nadu, all of which are in the southern part of the state, we observe a high sex ratio of over 1,000 i.e. an excess of females over males. The sex ratio is observed to be equal, viz., 1,000, after rounding off in two taluks—one in Thanjavur and the other in Madurai district.

Of the 36 taluks with sex ratio exceeding 1,000, fifteen are in Ramanathapuram district and 12 are in Tirunelveli district. The highest taluk level sex ratio of 1,149 females per 1,000 males is recorded in Sattankulam taluk of Tirunelveli district and the second highest ratio of 1,137 is also in the same district, in Tiruchchendur taluk. Due to the prevailing economic situation, males living in some taluks find it beneficial to work in places outside their taluk and this in turn results in depletion of their numbers and consequent excess of females.

There are five taluks with very low sex ratios between 900-925 and the lowest ratio of 909 is recorded in Sankari Taluk in Salem District.

Sex ratio in cities

Generally, the cities, i.e. towns with over a lakh of population, have a majority of males than the females. There is generally a big influx of males into these cities as many commercial and industrial enterprises are located in them. Of the 21 cities in Tamil Nadu (See Table 4.5), we find lowest sex ratio of 889 in Avadi Township. This Township is known for its industrial activity, apart from the location of Ordnance Units as also Military and Police Establishments. Ambattur (900) and Tiruvottiyur (916) which like Avadi are on the outskirts of Madras have also registered a comparatively low sex ratio in 1981. These cities also contain a number of industrial enterprises because of which the male influx in these places could be high. Madras City has a sex ratio of 934 (an improvement from 904 in 1971), and it is the biggest industrial and commercial centre of the state, besides being its capital. As there are limitations to the further growth and expansion of Madras, it is the sub-urban centres that are now advancing in industrial and commercial activities.

Certain cities in the western region of the State are also found to be having low sex ratios. Coimbatore, a city known for its textile mills and engineering establishments has a low sex ratio of 919. Tiruppur City, well known for its hosiery goods manufacture, has registered a sex ratio of 927. Erode, the other commercially important centre near Coimbatore has also a low sex ratio of 928.

The sex ratio in urban agglomerations, is almost an average of the ratios in the bigger urban units constituting such agglomerations. Of the 34 urban agglomerations in the State (See Table 4.6), sex ratio is seen to be the lowest in 1981 in Coonoor urban agglomeration (866). The other urban agglomerations with low ratios are Madras (930), Erode (923), Coimbatore (924),

Naduvattam (924) and Vembadithalam (924). It is significant to observe that some of the urban agglomerations have even an excess of females over males. These are Vaniyambadi, Nagappattinam, Tondi, Tirunelveli, Ambasamudram and Tiruchchendur.

Sex ratio among the various religious groups

The sex ratio among the Hindus of Tamil Nadu, who constitute nearly 89 per cent of the State's population is 974, which is just 3 points below the sex ratio of 977 among the entire population. In 1971, the sex ratio among Hindus was 976 and in 1981, the ratio has declined to 974. Among the other two major religious communities of the State, viz., Christians and Muslims, the sex ratio in 1981 has recorded an increase as compared to 1971. While among Christians, the sex ratio in 1981 has marginally gone upto 997 (from 995 in 1971), the ratio among Muslims has revealed a sizable increase crossing even the unity level of 1,000. The 1981 sex ratio among Muslims is 1.005 as against 994 in 1971. It is the only religious group in which we find an excess of females over males. The Christians constitute 5.8 per cent and Muslims 5.2 per cent of the State's population in 1981. The sex ratio among Jains is 906 in 1981. The sex ratio among the other two important religious groups of Sikhs and Buddists, which do not have sizable population in Tamil Nadu, is less than 800. While among the Scheduled Castes, the sex ratio (980) is slightly above that of the ratio among State's general population (977), the sex ratio for Scheduled Tribes stands at a lower level, viz., 968. Compared to the last census of 1971, however, we find that the sex ratio has gone up in 1981 in the case of Scheduled Tribes while it has declined in the case of Scheduled Castes. The urban sex ratio is generally low as compared to rural ratio, but we find it slightly higher in urban as against rural sex ratio in the case of Scheduled Tribes (See Table 4.7).

Age-structure of the population

Age is a very important demographic characteristic of the population and data on population belonging to several age-groups are much sought after by planners, sociologists and demographers alike. Population particulars classified by age and sex as also age and literacy, educational level or employment, etc., provide the base for both research and planning. Population of any given place is made up of persons in the different ages. But the extent of persons in the different age-grouns in comparison with the total population shows whether the population consists of more of younger people or old-age persons or a good proportion of working age population, signifying a good labour force.

etc. For opening up of more schools and colleges or hospitals and medical centres or even factories and industrial units at any given place at a future date, split-up data on age-wise population would be of great utility.

The composition of the population in the different ages is what is called age-structure of population. The age-structure undergoes constant change and it is different at different periods and hence varies in the different censuses also. At any given point of time, the age-structure can be said to be the consequence of cumulative effects of births, deaths, immigration and out-migration over the past several years. Analysis on the factors of population change are done with the aid of age-data. Besides, estimates of population for the inter-censal years (interpolation) forecasting of population for future years, called 'Population Projections' are also made by utilising age data. 'Age' therefore, has been a traditionally important question in every census schedule right from the good old days when official census was begun in our country. The census enumerator had to canvass this question in a persuasive spirit, in spite of non-response and other difficulties involved in ascertaining the exact age. Due to the personal nature of the question, some delicacy naturally exists in asking about age, particularly from women many of whom refuse to divulge their real ages and often submit deliberately ages below their real ones. This problem is overcome by the census enumerators, who are trained to be tactful in eliciting this vital information.

Age in Census

'Age' is obtained in census with reference to the total number of years completed by a person on the last birthday. Very often, there is a tendency to give the 'running years' instead of the 'completed years' and the census enumerator was cautioned to avoid this mistake. Infants who had not completed one year on the day of census enumeration were marked '0'. Many persons, particularly in the rural areas are found incapable of recollecting their exact age and hence give incorrect ages. In such cases, they were assisted in recounting the correct age by stimulating their memory to some outstanding or unforgettable occurrences or important historical events, well known in the area. In some cases, age could also be fixed more precisely with reference to the age of another person in the same household or a well known person in the neighbourhood. Illiterate persons could easily recount and say whether they are older or younger than a specified individual and by how many years. In spite of all such efforts on the part of the enumerators to elicit accurate information, age data are said to contain defects due to inaccuracies in the submission of age in the census returns. Errors in age data are viewed with concern

by the demographers who try to smooth the data by adopting one or the other of the several mathematical formulae, meant for the purpose, to enable reduction of inaccuracies and usage of the data.

Age data are known to be defective in a number of economically advanced countries also. As such, one cannot feel much of disappointment in regard to defective data on age-wise population in the developing and under-developed countries. There appears to be a general tendency on the part of the people to give their ages in multiples of 5 and 10. This is observed to be so not only among the illiterate, but even among some literate and highly qualified persons. Some people have also the habit of rounding their ages to the next even number or three's etc. The error that creeps into the age data in such a manner of rounding is said to be due to 'digital preference'. The heaping of population in some specific ages which is recorded in the censuses of even advanced countries like United States of America and United Kingdom, is the result of such digital preferences of individuals. Some people derive some satisfaction in giving a false age by inflating or deflating their real age. Such a wrong submission is either done psychologically or deliberately or with some intention. Error due to such a phenomenon is termed 'age bias'. With the objective of removing such bias, experts use some mathematical formulae to smooth the apparent heapings in particular ages and to tone down the inconsistencies to a moderate and acceptable level before using them for research purposes. For our discussions here, we have taken into consideration only the unsmoothed age data.

Population in lower age-groups

The percentage distribution of the population in nine broad age-groups for India and Tamil Nadu for 1971 and 1981 is given in Table 4.8. As per the 1981 Census, nearly 40 per cent of the country's population are aged 14 years and below. Similar percentage for Tamil Nadu is 35 only. As compared to the 1971 Census figures the proportion of population in this age-group has revealed a decline. While the proportion of 0-14 population has dropped from 37.77 per cent in 1971 to 35.01 per cent in 1981 in Tamil Nadu, at the country level, it has declined from 42.02 per cent in 1971 to 39.54 per cent in 1981. Population of this group consists of infants, very young children and boys and girls of school going age, all of whom are considered "dependents" from the 'economic' angle. The proportion of population in the age-groups 15-19 and 20-24 is slightly higher in Tamil Nadu (10.17 per cent and 8.90 respectively) than at the country level (9.65 per cent and 8.62 per cent). Population below 20

years in the state constitute 45.19 per cent and those between 20-29 form 17.05 per cent. While the population of 30-39 ages constitute 13.28 per cent, those in the other working age-groups of 40-49 and 50-59 constitute less, viz., 10.88 per cent and 7.19 per cent respectively. There are only 6.41 per cent of old people who are 60 years and over and they are also, like 0-14 group, mostly dependents. A significant feature that the age-distribution of population of Tamil Nadu reveals is that we have a lower proportions in the younger age-groups upto 10-14 as compared to the country while in the higher age-groups of 40-49 and above, the ratios are higher in Tamil Nadu than in India.

In the five year age-groups of 0-4 and 5-9, we observe a decline in the ratios in the state in 1981 (11.14 and 11.96 per cent respectively) as against higher ratios (13.09 per cent and 13.17 per cent) in the last census of 1971. This is considered to signify decline in fertility during the 1971-81 decade. The quantum of decline is in fact higher in the age-group 0-4 as compared to that in the age-group 5-9 which again indicates that the decline in fertility during the second half of the decade has been greater than that during the first half of the decade.

Rural-urban differential in age-composition of population

There are slight variations in the distribution of population between the rural and urban areas of the state. The ratio of the population in 0-14 is higher in the rural areas (35.38 per cent) than in the urban areas (34.27 per cent). In the 0-4 age-group, in particular, the ratio is 11.44 per cent in rural areas and 10.54 per cent in the urban areas. The lower ratio in urban areas may perhaps be attributable to the comparatively lower fertility and birth rate in cities and towns as compared to villages, thanks to the effective implementation of the family welfare programmes in such urban centres and the high receptivity to the same among the more elite and educated masses inhabiting such places as against those living in rural areas. The ratio of population in 5-9 ages is again higher (12.04 per cent) in the rural areas than in the urban areas (11.78 per cent). But, in the age-group 10-14 and also in 15-19, 20-24, 25-29 and 30-34, the proportions are higher in the urban areas than those in the rural areas (vide also Table 4.9). In the field of higher education and employment, more opportunities exist in the urban areas and the higher ratio of population in these ages in the urban areas could signify to some extent, migration towards urban centres of persons in the rural areas belonging to these age-groups. The ratios of population in ages 35-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60+ are, however, reverse

again and are more in the rural areas than the urban areas. The healthy and tension-free life in the villages and the apparent longevity of the people in the older ages living in villages could be responsible for this higher ratio of population in these age groups in the rural areas.

Mean and Median age of population

Based on 5 per cent sample data, the mean and median age of population for Tamil Nadu for 1981 have been worked out. The mean age of population for the State is 26.9 years for males and 26.6 years for females. The corresponding ages in 1971 were 25.9 years and 25.6 years. One could conclude from this that the population of Tamil Nadu is on an average older by an year than what it was 10 years ago. This may be due to improved health conditions and declining rate of mortality, resulting particularly in the higher expectation of life in the older ages, and comparatively lesser proportion of persons in the younger age-groups. From the calculation of median age of the population also, one is able to observe that the population of Tamil Nadu is slightly aging. The median age represents the age below and above which 50 per cent of the people live. The median age in 1981 is 22.8 years for males and 22.7 years for females as against 22.0 years and 22.1 years for males and females respectively during 1971. Half the population can now be said to be under 22.8 years in Tamil Nadu. For India the mean age of the population for 1981 has been calculated to be 25.5 years for males and 25.4 years for females. The median age for the country is 20.4 years for males and 20.6 years for females.

Age-pyramid

We have discussed the 'age' and 'sex' composition of the population separately in the foregoing paragraphs. But it would be useful also to compare these two characteristics together through the pictorial depiction, popularly called 'age pyramid' or 'population pyramid'. How is an 'age-pyramid' constructed? When the population of males and females under each age is depicted in bar diagrams in a horizontal manner with the ages indicated in the centre and bars drawn on either side for males and females, we get the pyramid. It is conventional to measure the absolute numbers or percentages of the population at each five year age-group in horizontal bars with males to the left of the vertical axis and females to the right. The bars youngest age-group 0-4 provides the base and the next higher age-group comes over it and so on. The pyramid could also be described as two bar charts (with continuing bars without gaps in between) placed on their sides, back to back. Generally, in developing countries with a fast-growing population, there are more people

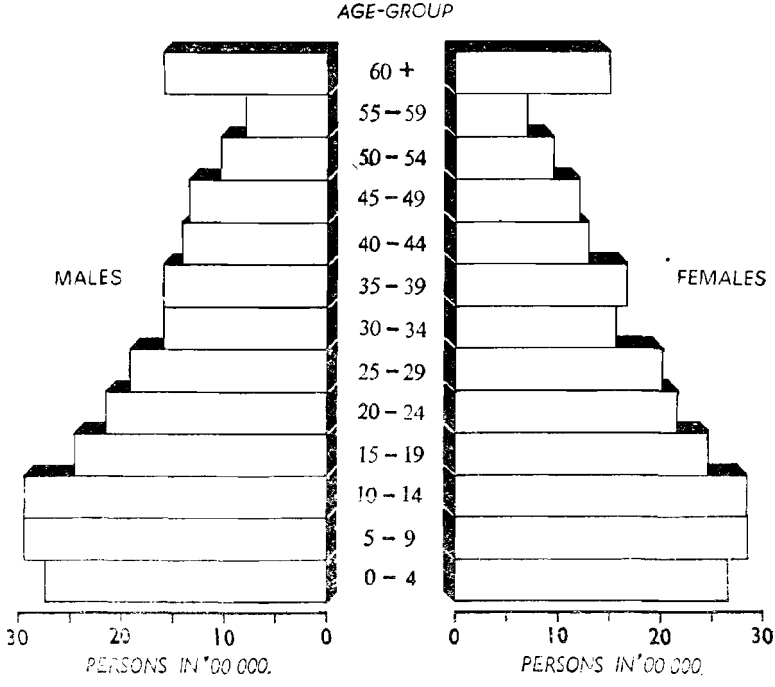
in the younger ages. This situation is applicable to our country also, though in recent times we have noticed some decline in fertility as reflected by a decline in the birth rate. In Tamil Nadu, in particular, the growth rate has been declining at a faster rate in the last two decades when compared with the country, as revealed by the last two censuses. The age-pyramids of developing countries have invariably a broader base and they taper off progressively upward in the higher age-groups. In direct contrast to this situation, we find that in the developed countries where the birth rate had reached a low level and the proportion of children is also smaller, the age-pyramid has a much narrower base and relatively widened top. Due to the differentials in the shapes of the pyramids of the different countries, we are able to make comparisons of population and draw conclusions on their age-sex composition and analyse the reasons for the same with reference to the specific variations revealed by them.

Age-pyramids of India and some other countries

Considering the age-pyramids of India and Tamil Nadu, one notices broad bases in the younger age-groups of 0-4, 5-9, 10-14 and 15-19. The population of both males and females in these age-groups nearly add up to 50 per cent in India, while it is around 45 per cent in Tamil Nadu. It is obvious that very large proportions of the population are in the younger ages. With the increase in ages, the proportions become lower. As a consequence, the walls of the pyramid slope steeply inwards in the middle ages. The rather rapid shrinking in the higher ages beyond 40-44 indicate the relatively high death rates in the successive age-groups. The death rates have undoubtedly fallen in the last few years, but still the average death rate is considered high as compared to several other countries.

In developing countries like Mexico, Nigeria, Tanzania, Bangladesh, etc., the pyramids reveal a higher ratio of population in younger ages and are similar to that of India. These countries have a growing population characterised by a high birth rate. The age-pyramids of some of the economically advanced countries on the other hand, like for example Japan, Sweden, Great Britain or Germany, give a contrast as the bases in regard to these countries are small, the middle age-groups are wider than the lower ones and the tapering in the older ages is not steep. Both the birth and death rates are lower in such countries and the rates of life expectancy are high. The larger ratios of women in the higher ages than men in the developed countries is also a significant feature pointing to the generally higher rates of survival among the older women.

AGE PYRAMID, 1981



As observed in the preceding paragraphs, the age-pyramid differs from time to time and its shape is different for the different countries. Irregularities in the shape of age-pyramids are bound to exist due to differentials in fertility and age-sex variations in mortality, migration, etc; and these could be taken to signify some important event or the other in the life of the population. While the bulges point towards higher levels of immigration or higher birth rates, indentations are supposed to signify heavy out-migration or other natural calamities or lower fertility.

Sex ratio in the different age-groups

Sex ratios are different in the different age-groups. Generally males constitute a higher proportion in the lower ages, tend to reach an equal level in the middle ages and constitute a lower ratio in the higher ages, where the females outnumber the males. Any deviation from this pattern is of considerable interest to the demographer. Several reasons are said to be responsible for the variations. Due to inadequate care and attention and sometimes utter neglect, female children, particularly in younger ages, are said to suffer a higher mortality rate in some places. Large scale migration of males/females of particular age-groups also causes differentials. Errors in data collection like under-reporting of females or over enumeration of males besides the wrong reporting of age, do also sometimes contribute towards distortions in age-sex data. As compared to the country as a whole, we find that Tamil Nadu reveals a higher sex ratio in most of the age-groups (Table 4.10). Only in the age-group of 60 years and over, the sex ratio in Tamil Nadu is lower at 944 as against 960 for India. The lowest proportion of females to males among the different age-groups is noticed in the age-group of 50-59 for both Tamil Nadu and the country, viz., 904 and 876, respectively. The second lowest sex ratio is noticed in the age-group of 40-49 in Tamil Nadu (912). In Tamil Nadu, the sex ratio exceeds unity (i.e. 1000) (912). In Tamil Nadu, the sex ratio exceeds unity (i.e. 1000) in some age-groups, viz., 15-19, 20-24, 25-29 and 35-39. It is in these ages, many young men move even out of the state towards centres of higher education and employment.

Dependency ratio

In any given population, sizable sections including infants, younger age-group population including students and very old persons generally depend on the other working age-group for their livelihood. Particularly, the younger age-group population who form a good proportion are totally dependent on other older age-group population. The ratio of such dependent age-groups to the total population is considered as an important index

on the age distribution of a given population. The problem of economic development of the developed as also developing countries is closely inter-twined with the proportion of dependents and the age composition of the population. The ratio of dependency is worked out with reference to the basic fact that every individual is a consumer, while only some among them are producers. Thus, those who fall outside the economically productivity age-groups are considered dependents. Though all the individuals in the ages 15-59 may not be working, population belonging to these ages are deemed to be in the working age-group and are capable of contributing to the economic activity. In the same manner, few among the infants and older age-groups may also be working; but still they (people in 0-14 and 60+ ages) are not generally considered as part of the labour force. Dependency ratio is generally calculated as under.

$$\text{Dependency Ratio} = \frac{\text{Population in age-group 0-14 and 60 and above}}{\text{Population in the age-group 15-59}} \times 100$$

In simple terms, this ratio would give the number of dependents for every 100 members who are in the working age-group.

Dependency Ratio in India and Tamil Nadu as also some foreign countries

The dependents constitute 85 per every 100 persons in the working age-group in India as per 1981 census. This ratio was 92 in 1971 and has now declined. In Tamil Nadu, the dependency ratio has been found to be lower than that for the country. While it was 77 in 1971, it has now fallen to 71. Table 4.11 presents data on population by the three broad age-groups in certain countries along with the dependency ratios. In Canada and Japan, we find that the ratio is quite low, viz., 57. In Japan, it stands more or less at the same level in the last 15 years and in Canada, it has fallen from 78 in 1966 to 57 in 1980. In England the ratio is 68, while it is 66 in France. In countries like Mexico, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran and Nepal, the ratio is very high and in the first mentioned three countries, it exceeds 100. The proportion of younger people is strikingly lower in some of the developed countries, and this factor contributes towards lower dependency. Only around 20-25 per cent of the population are below 15 years in such countries, whereas in our country nearly 40 per cent are in this age-group. In some of the under-developed countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America like Kenya, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Iraq, Jordan, Mexico, Nicaragua etc., the ratio of 0-14 population is very high and it is between 44 and 52 per cent. Such high dependency ratio results in the

distribution of earnings of a few over a larger number of dependents, resulting in very poor standards of living. Our bigger ratio of dependents is chiefly due to the larger younger population and a decline in the dependency ratio, therefore, essentially depends on the reduction in the number of children. In other words, we have to reduce our birth rates quickly. The obvious link between the age structure of the population and economic development which is indeed quite striking could be observed from this phenomenon.

The lower proportion of younger age-group and comparatively higher ratio of older age-group is a characteristic feature of the developed countries. It is paradoxical that while such advanced countries which can afford to have more dependents have lower dependency ratios, poorer countries which can hardly afford more dependents have a higher dependency ratio. Population of 0-14 age-group constitute only 23 per cent in North America, 22 per cent in Europe and 24 per cent in USSR as against 45 per cent in Africa, 40 per cent in Latin America and 37 per cent in Asia. For the world as a whole, the ratio of 0-14 population has been estimated as 35 per cent.

Centenarians in Tamil Nadu

It has been customary for the elders in our land to bless the youngsters for a full life of 100 years and more. But, not many of us are strong, hale and healthy in the older ages to be able to live up to this blessing. In 1971, there were 2,779 persons in the State who have reached 100 years and more of age. This figure has now increased by nearly 34 per cent to 3,725. Salem District has the distinction of having the largest number of 471 such persons who are aged 100 and more. Over 300 persons each of 100 years and above are also reported in North Arcot (365), Periyar (314) and Madurāi (328) districts of the State. Thanks to the continuing improvements in the health care and the consequent longevity of life and higher life expectancy, one can expect perhaps a good increase in the number of centenarians in our country in the coming years.

Marital Status by age and sex

Data on the marital status of every individual have been gathered in census. Everyone has been classified as never married, currently married, widowed, divorced or separated. Never married refers to persons who have never been married before. A currently married person is one whose marriage, whether for the first or any other time, subsists at the time of enumeration with the spouse living. Persons who are recognised by custom

or society as married and persons who are living in stable de facto union are also classified as currently married. A widowed person is one whose husband or wife is dead. A person who has been separated from one's wife or husband and is living apart with no apparent intention of living together again or who has been divorced either by decree of a law court or by an accepted social and religious custom but has not remarried is classified as separated or divorced.

Statement 4.12 gives the percentage distribution of males and females in Tamil Nadu by the four marital status categories for different age groups and also for rural and urban areas. As compared to 1971 data, we observe a moderate increase in the ratio of currently married persons to population during 1981. The ratio of married among males in 1971 was 40.19 per cent and this has increased to 41.76 per cent in 1981. The ratio of 42.45 per cent of 'married' among the females in 1971 has also registered an increase, the 1981 ratio being 43.80 per cent. The ratio of never married and widowed have declined in 1981, as compared to 1971. Both in the rural and urban areas, the ratio of never married is very high among the males than among the females. The ratio of never married is 54.78 per cent among the rural male population and 57.59 among the urban males. Widows constitute a high ratio of 10 per cent of the female population while widowers form just 2.27 per cent of the male population.

A comparative study of the ratio of never married, married and widowed in the various age groups as also in the rural and urban areas is interesting. The ratio of married among females is high at 22.81 per cent in 15-19 ages (as against 1.15 per cent among males) and it sharply increases to 75.49 per cent in 20-24 ages and 92.19 per cent in 25-29 age group. Among males, however, married people constitute only 20.73 per cent in 20-24 ages, and it increases to 65.54 per cent among males of 25-29 age-group and to 89.68 per cent among age-group 30-34.

The greater proportion of widows as compared to widowers indicates a trend for more men to remarry than women. The trend is seen uniformly both in the rural and urban areas. The maximum ratio of married among females (92.92 percent) is in age-group 30-34, while for males we find the highest ratio (95.13 per cent) in 35-39 age-group. Late marriages both for males and females in the urban areas and early marriages (15-19 ages) and middle-age widowhood starting for females from 40-44 in the rural areas are clearly distinguishable from the census data.

Mean age at marriage

Using the census data on the ratio of unmarried in the

different age-groups, the singulate mean age at marriage has been calculated. In the case of males, the age at marriage has remained more or less the same and it is calculated as 25.97 in 1981, as against 25.92 in 1971. The age at marriage has gone up in the case of females. It was 19.58 in 1971 and in 1981 it stands at 20.22. The mean age at marriage is 5-6 years higher for males than that for females.

The mean and median age at marriage of currently married women has also been calculated with reference to the answers elicited on 'age at marriage' for ever-married women during 1981 Census. As per this data, the mean age at marriage of women is 18.40 in the rural and 18.52 in the urban areas. The median age at marriage is 18.39 in the rural and 18.43 in the urban areas. The age at marriage of females is also believed to show a steady increase with the increase in the educational level of females and it ranges between 22-23 years for graduates and above.

TABLE 4.1

SEX RATIO, 1901-1981 IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU

Census Year	India			Tamil Nadu		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1901 .	972	979	910	1,044	1,043	1,048
1911 .	964	975	872	1,042	1,044	1,032
1921 .	955	970	846	1,029	1,033	1,008
1931 .	950	966	838	1,027	1,034	997
1941 .	945	965	831	1,012	1,017	991
1951 .	946	965	869	1,007	1,014	986
1961 .	941	963	845	992	1,003	963
1971 .	930	949	858	978	990	951
1981 .	933*	951	878	977	987	956

*1981 figures of India have been worked out after including the projected population of Assam.

TABLE 4.2

SEX RATIO IN INDIA AND STATES IN 1981

India/State/ Union Territory	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4
INDIA	933	951	878
STATES :			
1. Andhra Pradesh	975	984	948
2. Assam	901	917	768
3. Bihar	946	963	832
4. Gujarat	942	959	905
5. Haryana	870	876	849
6. Himachal Pradesh	973	989	795
7. Jammu and Kashmir	892	897	875
8. Karnataka	963	978	926
9. Kerala	1,032	1,034	1,021
10. Madhya Pradesh	941	956	884
11. Maharashtra	937	987	850
12. Manipur	971	971	969
13. Meghalaya	954	965	904
14. Nagaland	863	899	688
15. Orissa	981	999	859
16. Punjab	879	884	865
17. Rajasthan	919	930	877
18. Sikkim	835	864	697
19. Tamil Nadu	977	987	956
20. Tripura	946	945	957
21. Uttar Pradesh	885	893	846
22. West Bengal	911	947	819
UNION TERRITORIES :			
1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	760	774	720
2. Arunachal Pradesh	862	881	629
3. Chandigarh	769	688	775
4. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	974	981	884
5. Delhi	808	810	808
6. Goa, Daman & Diu	981	1,013	919
7. Lakshadweep	975	986	963
8. Mizoram	919	928	893
9. Pondicherry	985	977	992

TABLE 4.3

SEX RATIO IN THE DISTRICTS IN 1981

State/District	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4
TAMIL NADU	977	987	956
1. Madras	934	..	934
2. Chengalpattu	957	974	931
3. North Arcot	979	979	978
4. South Arcot	972	974	963
5. Dharmapuri	959	960	946
6. Salem	949	949	949
7. Periyar	956	960	941
8. Coimbatore	950	969	931
9. Nilgiri	957	984	929
10. Madurai	975	985	958
11. Tiruchchirappalli	985	995	959
12. Thanjavur	988	988	989
13. Pudukkottai	1,007	1,012	979
14. Ramanathapuram	1,023	1,037	990
15. Tirunelveli	1,044	1,059	1,016
16. Kanniyakumari	985	983	995

TABLE 4.4

SEX RATIO IN THE TALUKS, 1981

State/District/Taluk	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4
TAMIL NADU	977	987	956
MADRAS DISTRICT	934	..	934
CHENGALPATTU DISTRICT . .	957	974	931
1. Gummidipundi	969	969	..
2. Ponneri	969	970	962
3. Uttukkottai (Sub-taluk) . .	973	973	..
4. *Tiruvallur*	981	982	975
5. Pallipattu (Sub-taluk) . . .	976	982	942
6. Tiruttani	974	975	970
7. Sriperumbudur	948	984	919
8. Saidapet	922	946	918
9. Chengalpattu	954	957	941
10. Kanchipuram	985	992	976
11. Uttiramerur	982	981	985
12. Madurantakam	979	980	972
NORTH ARCOT DISTRICT . .	979	979	978
1. Arakkonam	980	984	967
2. Walajapet	986	989	980
3. Guidyattam	978	974	989
4. Vaniyambadi	982	974	998
5. Vellore	985	993	976
6. Arani	996	996	995
7. Arcot	983	987	965
8. Cheyyar	988	988	983
9. Vandavasi	984	984	985
10. Polur	976	975	988
11. Tiruppattur	963	966	951
12. Chengam	962	962	..
13. Tiruvannamalai	974	980	954

TABLE 4.4

SEX RATIO IN THE TALUKS, 1981

State/District/Taluk	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4
SOUTH ARCOT DISTRICT	972	974	963
1. Gingee	978	978	..
2. Tindivanam	966	971	935
3. Villupuram	959	963	936
4. Tirukkoyilur	974	975	963
5. Kallakkurichchi	981	982	964
6. Ulundurpettai	983	983	.
7. Panruti	962	964	958
8. Cuddalore	959	955	966
9. Vriddhachalam	976	987	930
10. Tittakudi	990	990	..
11. Chidambaram	984	969	1,026
12. Kattumannarkoil	978	978	..
DHARMAPURI DISTRICT	959	960	946
1. Hosur	935	944	875
2. Denkanikota	947	947	940
3. Krishnagiri	978	979	973
4. Uttangarai	956	956	..
5. Palakkodu	964	966	938
6. Pennagaram	953	953	..
7. Dharmapuri	960	960	961
8. Harur	958	959	937
SALEM DISTRICT	949	949	949
1. Mettur	921	917	934
2. Omalur	923	918	981
3. Yercaud	956	956	..
4. Salem	948	941	952
5. Attur	967	969	952
6. Rasipuram	964	963	968
7. Sankari	909	903	950
8. Tiruchengodu	951	967	929
9. Namakkal	985	987	957
PERIYAR DISTRICT	956	960	941
1. Satyamangalam	959	962	946
2. Gopichettipalaiyam	956	958	941

TABLE 4.4

SEX RATIO IN THE TALUKS, 1981

State/District/Taluk	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4
3. Bhavani	947	946	950
4. Erode	943	958	927
5. Perundurai	951	951	947
6. Dharapuram	981	980	987
COIMBATORE DISTRICT	950	969	931
1. Mettuppalaiyam	956	958	953
2. Avanashi	959	960	954
3. Palladam	953	968	930
4. Coimbatore	931	957	923
5. Pollachi	966	980	946
6. Udumalaippettai	974	976	961
NILGIRI DISTRICT	957	984	929
1. Gudalur	975	972	976
2. Ootacamund	960	981	933
3. Kotagiri	985	996	972
4. Coonoor	922	989	854
MADURAI DISTRICT	975	985	958
1. Palani	977	979	966
2. Vedasandur	1,000	1,001	970
3. Nattam	981	983	974
4. Dindigul	978	985	965
5. Kodaikanal	938	936	945
6. Uttamapalaiyam	972	975	967
7. Periyakulam	976	980	965
8. Nilakkottai	985	986	979
9. Melur	1,019	1,025	973
10. Madurai North	984	985	976
11. Madurai South	953	972	951
12. Usilampatti	960	961	949
13. Tirumangalam	1,001	1,012	963
TIRUCHCHIRAPPALLI DISTRICT	985	995	959
1. Turaiyur	1,012	1,016	969
2. Perambalur	999	1,003	932
3. Ariyalur	985	988	950

TABLE 4.4

SEX RATIO IN THE TALUKS, 1981

State/District/Taluk	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4
4. Udayarpalayam	966	966	..
5. Lalgudi	1,008	1,014	974
6. Musiri	1,002	1,001	1,006
7. Karur	996	1,001	985
8. Kulittalai	995	996	979
9. Tiruchchirappalli	955	972	949
10. Manapparai	986	989	954
THANJAVUR DISTRICT	988	988	989
1. Sirkazhi	976	977	970
2. Mayuram	998	996	1,002
3. Tiruvidaimarudur	993	992	996
4. Kumbakonam	982	982	982
5. Nannilam	993	993	..
6. Papanasam	997	995	1,007
7. Thiruvaiyaru	996	995	1,002
8. Thanjavur	965	985	947
9. Orattanadu	997	1,000	941
10. Mannargudi	984	978	1,008
11. Thiruvarur	993	990	1,002
12. Nagappattinam	1,000	994	1,007
13. Tirutturaippundi	977	971	1001
14. Vedaranniyam	983	972	1,053
15. Pattukkottai	995	991	1,010
16. Peravurani	992	992	..
PUDUKKOTTAI DISTRICT	1,007	1,012	979
1. Kulattur	991	992	969
2. Pudukkottai	975	984	962
3. Alangudi	993	993	991
4. Tirumayam	1,082	1,082	1,084
5. Arantangi	1,004	1,011	965
6. Avadaiyarkovil	1,005	1,005	..
RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT	1,023	1,037	990
1. Tiruppattur	1,078	1,094	995
2. Karaikkudi	1,028	1,071	990
3. Devakottai	1,045	1,073	993
4. Tiruvadanai	1,051	1,047	1,101

TABLE 4.4

SEX RATIO IN THE TALUKS, 1981

State District Taluk	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4
5. Sivaganga	1,045	1,052	1,002
6. Manamadurai (Sub-taluk)	1,006	1,012	987
7. Haiyankudi (Sub-taluk)	1,075	1,061	1,129
8. Paramakkudi	1,036	1,055	995
9. Tiruchchuli	1 035	1,035	..
10. Aruppukkottai	1,012	1,023	986
1. Virudunagar	991	1,011	958
12. Srivilliputtur	1,038	1,004	1,019
13. Rajapalaiyam	981	997	966
14. Sattur	1,034	1,022	981
15. Kamudi	1,023	1,013	1,101
16. Mudukulattur	1,019	1,021	972
17. Ramanathapuram	1,046	1,070	998
18. Rameswaram (Sub-taluk)	926	950	908
TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT	1,044	1,059	1,016
1. Sivagiri (Sub-taluk)	1,026	1,029	1,018
2. Sankarankovil	1,013	1,016	992
3. Kovilpatti	1,035	1,053	1,006
4. Vilattikulam	1,050	1,052	1,011
5. Ottappidaram	1,032	1,032	..
6. Tuticorin	963	1,023	953
7. Srivaikuntam	1,088	1,097	1,057
8. Tirunelveli	1,022	1,055	1,005
9. Tenkasi	1,020	1,016	1,032
10. Shencottah	996	995	998
11. Ambasamudram	1,051	1,070	1,017
12. Nanguneri	1,099	1,096	1,136
13. Sattankulam	1,149	1,152	1,138
14. Tiruchchendur	1,137	1,148	1,126
KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT	985	983	995
1. Vilavankod	980	979	1,005
2. Kalkulam	972	972	976
3. Thovala	992	992	..
4. Agastiswaram	1,005	1,011	999

TABLE 4.5

SEX RATIO IN THE CITIES OF TAMIL NADU IN 1981

Name of City	Sex ratio	Name of City	Sex ratio
1	2	1	2
1. Madras	934	11. Coimbatore	919
2. Avadi	889	12. Valparai	955
3. Tiruvottiyur	916	13. Dindigul	952
4. Ambattur	900	14. Madurai	951
5. Kanchipuram	977	15. Tiruchchirappalli	971
6. Vellore	984	16. Kumbakonam	981
7. Cuddalore	966	17. Thanjavur	947
8. Salem	953	18. Rajapalaiyam	963
9. Erode	928	19. Tuticorin	966
10. Tiruppur	927	20. Tirunelveli	993
		21. Nagercoil	999

TABLE 4.6

SEX RATIO IN THE URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS OF TAMIL NADU IN 1981

Urban Agglomeration	Sex ratio	Urban Agglomeration	Sex ratio
1	2	1	2
1. Madras	930	18. Devarshola	991
2. Kanchipuram	977	19. Naduvattam	924
3. Gudiyattam	977	20. Kotagiri	983
4. Vaniyambadi	1,007	21. Coonoor	866
5. Vellore	980	22. Palani	960
6. Arcot	974	23. Madurai	952
7. Neyveli	952	24. Karur	956
8. Chidambaram	980	25. Tiruchchirappalli	949
9. Salem	952	26. Kumbakonam	981
10. Mallur	991	27. Nagappattinam	1,007
11. Vembaditalam	924	28. Karaikkudi	990
12. Mallasamudram	953	29. Tondi	1,101
13. Bhavani	948	30. Sivakasi	980
14. Erode	923	31. Tuticorin	955
15. Tiruppur	933	32. Tirunelveli	1,005
16. Coimbatore	924	33. Ambasamudram	1,057
17. Pollachi	932	34. Tiruchchendur	1,116

TABLE 4.7

SEX RATIO AMONG THE DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS GROUPS AS ALSO SCs/STs IN TAMIL NADU

Religion/Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes	1971			1981		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Total Population	978	990	951	977	987	956
Hindus	976	987	949	974	984	953
Muslims	994	1,063	951	1,005	1,063	972
Christians	995	1,002	983	997	1,007	982
Sikhs	586	552	590	726	812	716
Buddhists	547	1,350	501	767	1,010	686
Jains	869	1,039	802	906	1,032	869
Other religions & persuasions	843	870	790	920	929	905
Religion not stated	1,130	1,071	2,333	989	1,033	909
Scheduled Castes	984	987	971	980	983	970
Scheduled Tribes	951	950	960	968	967	978

TABLE 4.8

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION IN THE BROAD AGE-GROUPS, INDIA AND TAMIL NADU, 1971 AND 1981

Age-group	Percentage of Population			
	1971		1981	
	India	Tamil Nadu	India	Tamil Nadu
1	2	3	4	5
0—14	42.02	37.77	39.57	35.01
15—19	8.66	8.72	9.65	10.17
20—24	7.86	8.58	8.62	8.90
25—29	7.45	8.14	7.63	8.15
30—34	6.60	6.79	6.37	6.53
35—39	6.01	6.84	5.84	6.76
40—49	9.34	10.51	9.54	10.88
50—59	6.09	6.91	6.29	7.19
60+	5.97	5.74	6.49	6.41
All ages	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Note.—'Age not stated' has been excluded.

TABLE 4.9

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION IN BROAD AGE-GROUPS IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS, TAMIL NADU, 1981

Age-group	Percentage of population		
	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4
0—14	35.01	35.38	34.27
15—19	10.17	9.88	10.79
20—24	8.90	8.40	9.92
25—29	8.15	7.75	8.95
30—34	6.53	6.31	6.96
35—39	6.76	6.83	6.60
40—49	10.88	11.23	10.17
50—59	7.19	7.50	6.55
60+	6.41	6.72	5.79
All ages	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Table B-1.

TABLE 4.10

SEX RATIO IN DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU, 1981

Age group	Sex ratio in	
	India	Tamil Nadu
1	2	3
Total	934	977
0—14	938	969
15—19	885	1,036
20—24	977	1,037
25—29	970	1,056
30—34	964	985
35—39	953	1,056
40—49	899	912
50—59	876	904
60+	960	944
Age not stated	771	914

TABLE 4.11

AGE COMPOSITION OF THE POPULATION IN A FEW SELECTED COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD FOR LATEST AVAILABLE YEAR

Sl. No.	Country	Year	Percentage distribution of population by age-groups			Dependency Ratio (per 100)
			0—14	15—59	60+	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	U.S.A.	1982	22.18	61.67	16.15	62
2.	Canada	1983	21.92	63.78	14.30	57
3.	England	1982	19.93	59.40	20.67	68
4.	France	1983	21.81	60.42	17.77	66
5.	Sweden	1981	19.24	58.48	22.28	71
6.	F.D.R.	1982	16.86	63.39	19.75	58
7.	G.D.R.	1983	19.34	61.91	18.75	62
8.	U.S.S.R.	1980	24.52	65.66	10.18	53
9.	Japan	1982	22.96	63.53	13.51	57
10.	Mexico	1979	46.18	49.08	4.74	104
11.	Iran	1981	43.22	52.85	6.36	94
12.	Turkey	1980	38.54	54.83	6.62	82
13.	Poland	1982	24.73	61.91	13.36	62
14.	Argentina	1980	30.35	57.85	11.80	73
15.	Pakistan	1981	45.15	48.14	6.71	108
16.	Bangaladesh	1981	45.82	49.34	4.84	103
17.	Nepal	1981	41.35	52.94	5.71	89
18.	Sri lanka	1981	35.27	58.09	6.64	72
19.	India	1981	39.55	53.91	6.49	85
20.	China	1982	33.60	58.76	7.64	70
	TAMIL NADU	1981	35.01	58.58	6.41	71

Source.—Table 7 of U.N. Demographic Year Book, 1983 for all countries except U.S.S.R. for which the source is Table-2 where the age-groups relate to 0—15, 15—64 and 65+. respectively.

TABLE 4.12

PERCENTAGE OF NEVER MARRIED, MARRIED, WIDOWED AND DIVORCED OR SEPARATED POPULATION IN EACH AGE-GROUP BY SEX IN 1981

Age-group	Sex	ALL AREAS			
		NM	M	W	D/S
1	2	3	4	5	6
All Ages . . .	M	55.71	41.76	2.27	0.25
	F	45.52	43.80	10.00	0.67
10—14	M	99.82	0.17	N	N
	F	99.61	0.36	0.01	N
15—19	M	99.82	1.15	0.01	0.01
	F	76.77	22.81	0.11	0.29
20—24 . . .	M	78.94	20.73	0.13	0.18
	F	22.94	75.49	0.66	0.89
25—29	M	33.60	65.54	0.44	0.39
	F	4.81	92.19	1.80	1.19
30—34	M	9.02	89.68	0.79	0.50
	F	1.65	92.92	4.01	1.42
35—39	M	3.04	95.13	1.31	0.52
	F	0.75	90.89	7.02	1.33
40—44	M	1.94	95.12	2.38	0.55
	F	0.71	83.96	13.87	1.46
45—49	M	1.48	94.27	3.74	0.51
	F	0.48	77.22	21.00	1.30
50—54	M	1.33	91.74	6.38	0.54
	F	0.43	63.00	35.28	1.29
55—59	M	1.12	90.02	8.37	0.48
	F	0.35	54.94	43.67	1.05
60—64	M	0.98	85.26	13.23	0.51
	F	0.35	35.38	63.37	0.90
65—69	M	0.90	81.88	16.68	0.50
	F	0.36	29.64	69.22	0.77
70+	M	0.75	72.35	26.33	0.51
	F	0.38	14.73	84.35	0.54

TABLE 4.12

PERCENTAGE OF NEVER MARRIED, MARRIED, WIDOWED AND DIVORCED OR SEPARATED POPULATION IN EACH AGE GROUP BY SEX IN 1981

Age-group	Sex	RURAL AREAS			
		NM	M	W	D/S
1	2	7	8	9	10
All Ages	M	54.78	42.33	2.58	0.30
	F	44.58	44.30	10.36	0.76
10—14	M	99.83	0.17	N	N
	F	99.58	0.39	0.01	0.01
15—19	M	98.63	1.33	0.01	0.02
	F	75.29	24.19	0.13	0.36
20—24	M	75.74	23.83	0.17	0.24
	F	19.25	78.91	0.75	1.08
25—29	M	29.16	69.73	0.56	0.53
	F	3.39	93.24	2.00	1.36
30—34	M	7.84	90.52	0.97	0.66
	F	1.13	92.91	4.35	1.61
35—39	M	2.71	95.07	1.57	0.65
	F	0.55	90.61	7.34	1.50
40—44	M	1.71	94.80	2.82	0.67
	F	0.51	83.70	14.17	1.61
45—49	M	1.33	93.80	4.26	0.61
	F	0.32	77.19	21.09	1.40
50—54	M	1.18	91.13	7.05	0.62
	F	0.28	63.03	35.30	1.39
55—59	M	0.95	89.23	9.25	0.56
	F	0.20	55.58	43.11	1.10
60—64	M	0.85	84.47	14.08	0.58
	F	0.22	36.04	62.78	0.96
65—69	M	0.76	81.11	17.54	0.56
	F	0.15	30.19	68.84	0.82
70+	M	0.61	71.89	26.88	0.59
	F	0.19	15.15	84.10	0.56

TABLE 4.12

PERCENTAGE OF NEVER MARRIED, MARRIED, WIDOWED AND DIVORCED OR SEPARATED POPULATION IN EACH AGE GROUP BY SEX IN 1981

Age-group	Sex	URBAN AREAS			
		NM	M	W	D/S
1	2	11	12	13	14
All Ages . . .	M	57.59	40.63	1.63	0.13
	F	47.46	42.77	9.28	0.49
10—14	M	99.82	0.17	N	N
	F	99.67	0.29	0.01	N
15—19	M	99.16	0.82	0.01	0.01
	F	79.50	20.24	0.08	0.16
20—24	M	84.42	15.42	0.07	0.07
	F	29.32	69.58	0.51	0.58
25—29	M	41.10	58.47	0.24	0.16
	F	7.44	90.25	1.44	0.87
30—34	M	10.99	88.26	0.48	0.25
	F	2.72	92.93	3.32	1.02
35—39	M	3.69	95.26	0.79	0.26
	F	1.20	91.52	6.32	0.97
40—44	M	2.42	95.76	1.48	0.33
	F	1.17	84.58	13.14	1.11
45—49	M	1.84	95.33	2.55	0.27
	F	0.88	77.30	20.77	1.04
50—54	M	1.68	93.12	4.85	0.35
	F	0.80	62.95	35.22	1.03
55—59	M	1.49	91.80	6.40	0.30
	F	0.69	53.40	44.99	0.91
60—64	M	1.30	87.20	11.15	0.33
	F	0.66	33.84	64.74	0.75
65—69	M	1.27	83.93	14.41	0.34
	F	0.83	28.38	70.12	0.65
70+	M	1.10	73.50	24.97	0.32
	F	0.77	13.86	84.87	0.50

N—Denotes negligible percentage.

CHAPTER V

HOW MANY OF US CAN READ AND WRITE?

More than the quantum, it is the quality of the population that goes to determine the social and economic status of the people of a country. Population in working age-group, actual number of workers, literacy, level of education, etc., are all some of the qualitative attributes of the human population. In view of its importance as an invaluable tool towards educational and employment planning, a question on literacy and educational level has always formed part of every census questionnaire. We also observe that there is a close inter-relationship between literacy and economic development in modern times. Countries with higher ratios of literacy and educational levels are either economically better off or they are found to be on the threshold of an economic revolution, marked by high industrial and commercial growth.

Improvements in the social and economic life of the people are observed among societies with comparatively more of literate and educated persons. Education has its impact in every aspect of day-to-day life and enables the gradual switch over to better living standards. Realising this, every country attaches great importance to the attainment of some basic educational level and in our country, the Constitution makers have incorporated the objective of giving free and compulsory primary education to all the children upto the age of 14 years as one of the 'directive principles of State Policy'. Education is primarily the responsibility of the State Government, but the Government of India have also assumed some responsibilities in this regard and this subject is now in the 'Concurrent List' under the Constitution which means that both the Central and State Governments could pass legislation on this matter. Primary education is now free in all the States and is even compulsory in many States.

Definition of literates

In census, data are gathered on literacy aspect among the population and besides, the level, nature and type of education attained by the literates are also ascertained. We all know that generally the capacity to read and write freely in any language enables an individual to be considered as a literate. Though there have been some marginal variations in the definition of the term in the last few censuses, there was no large difference in the content of the term. As per the latest 1981

census, 'A person who can both read and write with understanding in any language' is considered a literate. A person who can merely read but cannot write is not considered as a literate. A person could, however, be a literate without having had any formal education or having passed any minimum educational standard. Ability to merely sign one's name is not adequate to qualify a person as a literate. All children of the age of four years and less were treated as illiterate, even if some among them attended school and have picked up reading and writing of a few odd words.

Literary in India in relation to other countries

Literacy rates, for purposes of discussion, are generally measured by the proportion of literates in a population to the total population. This is termed as 'general literacy rate'. However, it is well known that infants and very young people cannot read and write. It is only right that such persons are eliminated from the calculations for a realistic assessment of the levels of literacy. When such children of 0-4 years are excluded from the total population also for the working of the ratios, we get what is called 'effective literacy rate'. In other words, the rates are calculated as follows:

$$\text{General literacy rate} = \frac{\text{Number of literates}}{\text{Total population}} \times 100$$

$$\text{True or effective literacy rate} = \frac{\text{Number of literates}}{\text{Total population—population in age group 0-4}} \times 100$$

In our country, we exclude children below four years from literacy considerations even during census enumeration. In some foreign countries, particularly of the west, persons of ages 10 and below and sometimes even below 15 are excluded from computations of literacy rates. The United Nations has recommended the exclusion of the age group 0-9 for the calculation of effective literacy rates.

In most of the European countries as also the other economically developed countries, the effective literacy rate is very high, that is, nearly 80-90 per cent or even more. In many of the under-developed and other developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, however, the rates are quite low and are generally found to be below 50 per cent.

Literacy has conflicting definitions in different countries. While UNESCO defines literacy as the ability to read and write a simple sentence, countries like Japan, Sudan, Zambia and Uganda consider illiteracy as 'never having attended school'. Literacy in some of the developed countries is defined in func-

tional terms as the ability to fill up a simple application form, Let us, however, see the literacy ratios in some of the countries, keeping in mind the above contradictions in the definition.

Economically advanced countries like Australia, Soviet Union and Switzerland are said to have full literacy both among males and females. The other highly developed countries which are also having almost cent per cent literacy are Austria, New zealand, Norway, Sweden, United States of America United Kingdom and West Germany. These countries have been reported to be having 99 per cent of literacy both among males and females. Japan is also having 99 per cent literacy among males but its literacy percentage among the females is slightly less, viz., 97 per cent. While Canada has a literacy ratio of 98 per cent among both males and females, France and Belgium have 97 per cent of literates. Examples of some developing countries with higher male literacy ratios of 80—95 per cent, but lower female literacy ratios, are South Korea, Yugoslavia, Hong Kong, Thailand and Singapore. Literacy percentages among females in some of these countries range between 40 in Burma, 54 in Singapore, 64 in Hong Kong and 70 in Thailand to 76 in Yugoslavia and 81 in South Korea. Female literacy in these countries could be expected to level up with those of males in the next few years, as much importance is attached to education in these developing countries.

Wide variations between male and female literacy ratios are still found in many underdeveloped and developing countries of Africa and Asia, including our country. Examples are Indonesia (70 and 45 are the male and female literacy rates respectively), Zambia (61 and 34), Egypt (57 and 29), Tunisia (51 and 25), Iran (48 and 26), India (47 and 25), Tanzania (43 and 15), etc. At the bottom are countries like Nigeria, Pakistan, Afghanisthan and Ethiopia where the male literacy percentages are 25 and less and female literacy rates 6 and below.

General literacy rate, 1901-1981, India and Tamil Nadu

As per 1981 Census, the total number of literates in the country is 241.03 million, and this excludes the State of Assam, where the census could not be held. This figure, considered as a ratio to the population of India, works to a general literacy rate of 36.23 per cent. There has been a substantial rise in this rate from 29.45 per cent in 1971 and 24.02 per cent in 1961. A comparative picture of the percentages of literates among the total population as also separately among males and females both

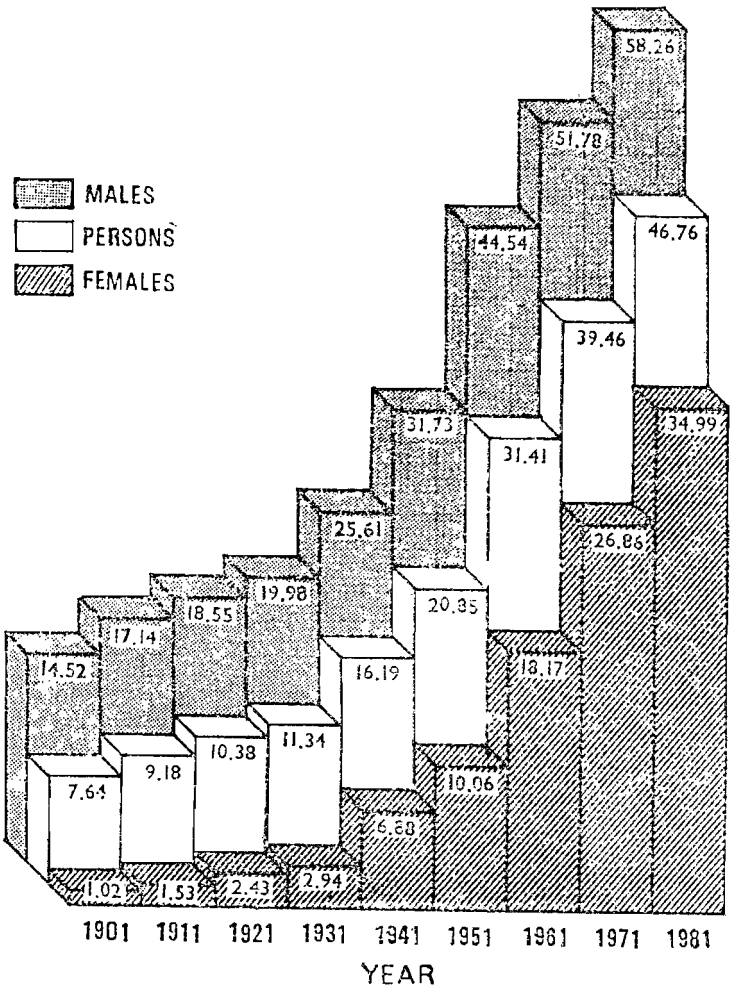
for India and Tamil Nadu since 1901 Census is available in Table 5.1. Though there has been a good increase in the rates after 1931 Census, we find substantial increase in the rates only after 1951. Prior to 1931, educational opportunities were quite restricted and natural calamities and local feuds contributed to the neglect of education. In the three decades of planned development since 1951, India's literacy rate has sizably increased from 16.67 per cent to 36.23 per cent. The rate has in fact more than doubled in these 30 years. While among males, the literacy rate rose from 24.95 per cent in 1951 to 46.89 per cent in 1981, it is the increase among the females from 7.93 per cent in 1951 to 24.82 per cent in 1981 that is noteworthy.

The educational system expanded considerably in this period. Towards achieving constitutional obligations, new programmes towards achieving universalisation of elementary education were being implemented. Educational opportunities were expanded, particularly in the rural and backward areas. Also, greater efforts were made towards giving free education to the socially and economically weaker sections of the society. In addition to the elementary education, a number of other schemes were made and new facilities for secondary education, girls' education, adult education, social education, scientific, technical and vocational education were all begun. With a view to ensure school attendance, mid-day meal scheme to school children was also implemented in Tamil Nadu. Prior to Independence, education was sought after for employment purposes and the urban dwellers and higher economic groups took to education in larger numbers. In the decades after Independence, the progress in regard to education has been comparatively faster. In Tamil Nadu, the literacy rate rose from 20.85 per cent in 1951 to 31.41 per cent in 1961, 39.46 per cent in 1971 and to 46.76 per cent in 1981. The efforts of the State Government in the field of education, particularly the introduction of free education, provision of mid-day meals to school children and the intensive adult education drive have no doubt caused such a good increase.

It is significant to note that the literacy rate has consistently been higher in Tamil Nadu than in the country in every census from 1901. But the difference in the rates has significantly widened since 1951 and it is the highest in 1981.

Both among males and females, the literacy rates are higher in Tamil Nadu than those in India. The literacy rate among males is 58.26 per cent in 1981 in Tamil Nadu, as against 46.89 per cent in India. Male literacy rate in the State crossed fifty

LITERACY RATES BY SEX, 1901-81



per cent for the first time in the 1971 census (51.78 per cent). Considering females, the rate in Tamil Nadu is 34.99 per cent. as against 24.82 per cent for the whole of the country. Thanks to the special thrust made towards the education of females during the various economic plans, the female literacy rate which was hardly 10 per cent in 1951 rose to nearly 35 per cent in 1981 in the State, and thus, the rate has increased by over, three times in the course of the last 30 years.

But, more than the literates who are increasing in numbers, it is the staggering figure of the illiterates that cause considerable consternation and point towards the herculean efforts that are required to be made in the years to come to lift the population to a higher level of literacy. The illiterates among the State's population were 249.4 lakhs in 1971 and this figure has risen marginally to 257.7 lakhs in 1981. This figure, however, includes a sizable section of the younger population (i.e. children of 0-4) who cannot be strictly considered for purposes of calculations of literacy rates, as most of them are not likely to be literates, in the true sense of the definition. While there are about 54 lakh children of 0-4 years, there are nearly 58 lakhs of children of 5-9 ages in the State as per 1981 Census. Literates of the State constitute little over 53 per cent, if the population of younger ones of ages 0-4 and 5-9 years are excluded from calculation.

Literacy rates in the various States and Union Territories

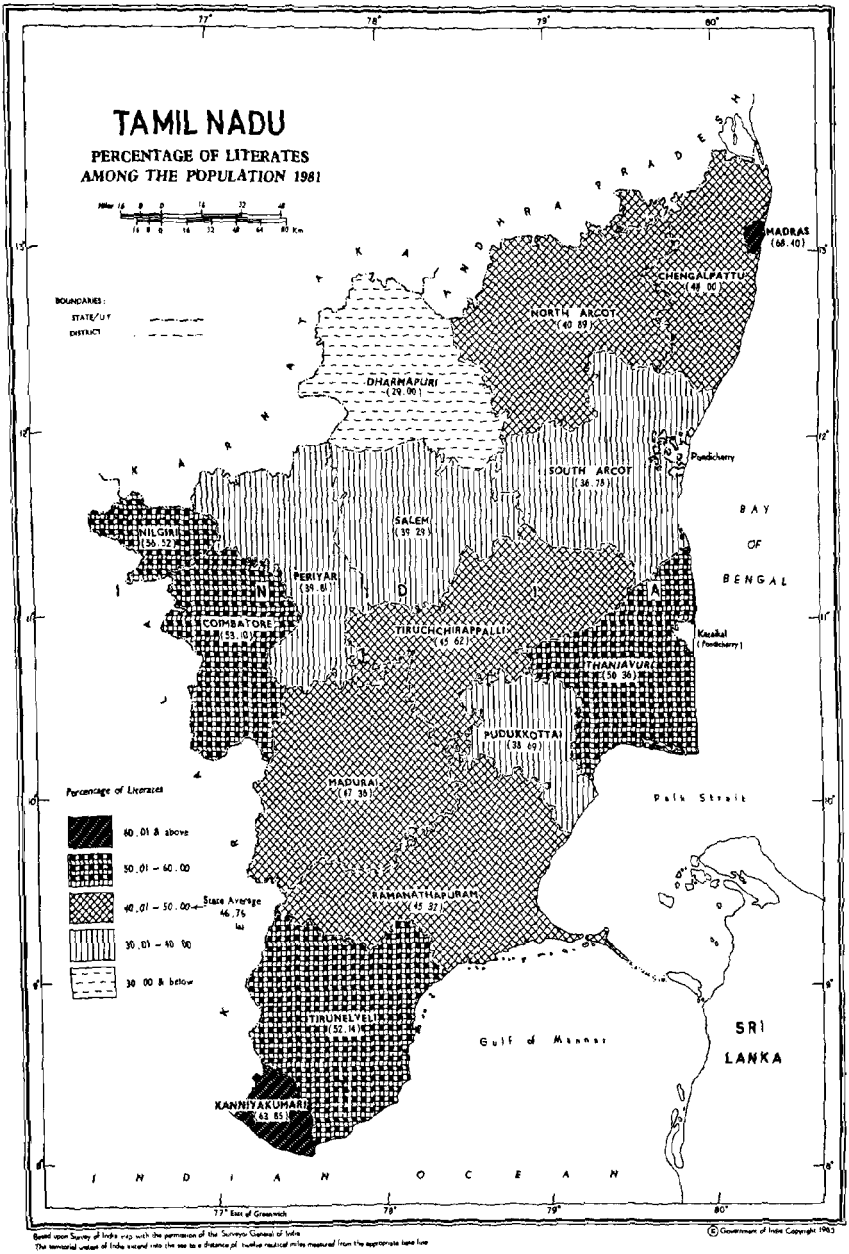
Literacy levels vary widely in the different regions of the country. A comparative picture of the levels of literacy prevailing in the different states and union territories of the country could be had from Table 5.2 where the percentage of literates to the total population for both 1971 and 1981 censuses along with their rankings are indicated. Kerala stands as the forerunner in the country in the field of literacy. It has registered the highest ratio of 70.42 per cent of literates among the population in 1981 and in the previous census of 1971 too, it held the top position in literacy among the states. In 1971, Chandigarh had a higher literacy rate (61.56 per cent) than Kerala (60.42 per cent); but it is a union territory with a highly urbanised area. Kerala thus continues to be in a pre-eminent position in regard to literacy in the country. Since about 22 per cent of the people are below 10 years in Kerala and if we calculate the literacy rate of Kerala excluding them, then the effective literacy rate excluding 0-9 population would amount to 81 per cent. Kerala could therefore be expected to touch the full literacy level in the next few years.

Considering the States alone, we find that Tamil Nadu with a ratio of 46.76 per cent ranks third in the country, following Maharashtra which holds the second rank. In the last 1971 Census, Tamil Nadu held the second position, Maharashtra following it as third. In the 1981 Census, Maharashtra's literacy percentage (47.18 per cent) is marginally in excess than that of Tamil Nadu (46.76 per cent).

While 18 of the 30 States and Union Territories (excluding the State of Assam) have got a literacy rate exceeding the country's average of 36.23 per cent, the rest of the 12 States/Union Territories have ratios below this level. The lowest literacy rate for any State is recorded by Rajasthan with 24.38 per cent, while among the Union Territories, Arunachal Pradesh has this characteristic with 20.79 per cent. A vast region of the country consisting of the six big and contiguous States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, which have in them 51.3 per cent of the country's total population, have exhibited low literacy ratios well below the national average. Further improvement in the literacy levels in India, therefore, depend to a very large extent on the condition of educational development in these big States. The wide disparity in the literacy rates between the various States/Union Territories is due to the differences in the educational opportunities available in them. The uneveness in educational facilities between urban areas and rural areas in our country is also very obvious. Educational facilities are abundant in the big cities and towns than in the villages. This is also reflected in the literacy rates between rural and urban areas. The literacy rates are comparatively higher in the urban areas. The improvement in the educational facilities also varies due to the lopsidedness in the planning of new schemes on education and their implementation as between the different States.

Literacy in the districts

Of the State's sixteen districts, we find the highest extent of literacy in the city district of Madras, viz., 68.40 per cent, and this is followed by Kanniyakumari district with 63.85 per cent. Kanniyakumari district which borders Kerala State and which formed part of Kerala prior to the State's reorganisation in 1956, has always had a high literacy ratio, similar to the rates in Kerala State. These two districts had occupied the first two ranks in literacy in the State even during 1971 and are the only ones to exceed a literacy rate of 60 per cent among the districts in both the censuses. There are four districts in the literacy range of 50-60 per cent and these are Nilgiri (56.52 per cent), Coimbatore (53.10 per cent), Tirunelveli (52.14



Based upon Survey of India map with the permission of the Surveyor General of India
The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line

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per cent) and Thanjavur (50.36 per cent). Besides the above six, Chengalpattu (48.00 per cent) and Madurai (47.36 per cent) are the other districts with a higher literacy ratio than that for the State as a whole, viz., 46.76 per cent. The remaining eight districts have registered lower ratios than the State average. While the backward Dharmapuri district with 29.00 per cent has the lowest literacy rate, three other districts with low ratios of 30-40 per cent are South Arcot, Pudukkottai and Sa'em. Coimbatore district which held the ninth rank in literacy in 1971 has now advanced to the fourth rank due to the bifurcation of the 1971 district and the formation of the Periyar district, which has left vast urban and literate areas in the pruned Coimbatore district.

Talukwise literacy rates

Wide variations are observed in the literacy rates of the 151 taluks of the State (excluding Madras city) and these are presented in Table 5.4. Agastiswaram taluk (of Kanniyakumari district) situated at the southern-most tip of the Indian subcontinent, has scored the distinction of recording the highest literacy rate with 71.41 per cent among its four-lakh strong population. While Madurai South taluk, which contains the legendary-famous city of Madurai (known as a centre of learning), has registered the second rank for literacy with 65.95 per cent, the third place goes to Thovala taluk (65.10 per cent), which is also in Kanniyakumari district. Tiruchchirappalli taluk with 65.01 per cent of literates is the only other taluk in the State to have over 65 per cent of literates among the population. It is noteworthy that two of the four top-ranking taluks noted above are in Kanniyakumari district, which lies on the borders of Kerala. Significantly enough, three of the four taluks of Kanniyakumari district have recorded high literacy rates of over 60 per cent, while the remaining one has 59.49 per cent of literates.

Very poor literacy rates among taluks are observed in three taluks of Dharmapuri district and the rates are in the range of 20-25 per cent. Pennagaram with 21.73 percentage of literates is the taluk with the lowest rate of literacy in the State. The other taluks with low rates are Denkanikota (24.67 per cent) and Palakkodu (24.82 per cent) where hardly one out of every four individuals is a literate person. The district of Dharmapuri is considered quite a backward district as compared to the other districts of the State and it has very little of industrial development till recently. It has the lowest literacy rate (29 per cent) among the 16 districts.

Apart from the taluks of Kanniyakumari district, all the four taluks of Nilgiri district also have registered a good literacy ratio exceeding fifty per cent. Barring these and the city district of Madras, we find that among the other districts, Thanjavur (8 out of 16 taluks) and Tirunelveli (7 out of 14 taluks) have a sizable number of taluks having more than half of their population as literates. In the other districts, only a few taluks have registered higher literacy ratios exceeding 50 per cent. In the five districts of South Arcot, Dharmapuri, Salem, Periyar and Pudukkottai, none of the 41 taluks in them have a literacy rate exceeding 50 per cent. Out of the 119 taluks with less than 50 per cent of literates in the State, as many as 63 fall in the literacy range 40—50 per cent another 44 taluks are in the range of 30-40 per cent.

Literacy variations among the sexes

Wide disparities in the literacy rates of males and females have always been revealed in the Census statistics over the last so many decades with males having appreciably higher rates of literacy than the females. Through a significant improvement in the female literacy rates, such wide differences in the ratios among males and females have been substantially narrowed down in the recent decades, particularly since the attainment of Independence and the commencement of the planning era. There is, however, still much room for increasing the female literacy rates in the years ahead. According to the latest census of 1981, while nearly half of the male population are now literate in India, only one out of every four females is a literate. However, compared to hardly one out of every 100 females who was a literate in 1901 and 12 or 13 literates out of every 100 females in 1951, the achievement of one in four females in 1981 represents indeed a tremendous improvement. The rates of literacy for both males and females are higher in Tamil Nadu than at the country level. While 58.26 per cent are literates among males, 34.99 per cent among the females are literates in this State. Comparing the various States, one is struck by the very high literacy ratio of 75.26 per cent among males and 65.73 per cent among the females recorded in the State of Kerala. The other States fall far below this level of Kerala. While 58.79 per cent among males in Maharashtra is the second best for males among the States, the ratio of 34.99 per cent among the female population of Tamil Nadu is the second best for females among the different States.

Male literacy rate has not even touched the level of 40 per cent in some of the big and populous States in the country

like Andhra Pradesh (39.26 per cent), Bihar (38.11 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (39.49 per cent), Rajasthan (36.30 per cent) and Uttar Pradesh (38.76 per cent). There are eight States, besides the top ranking Kerala, which have male literacy ratios exceeding 50 per cent.

Female literacy is very poor even now in many States. At the country level, while a little over half of males are illiterate, three-fourths among females are illiterate, in spite of the emphasis laid in the plan periods on improving female literacy. The fast-growing population of the vast rural areas where the bulk of the female population are illiterate, contribute to this phenomenon. While only 34.27 per cent of females are illiterate in Kerala, a very large chunk among the female population are illiterate in some big States like Bihar (86.38 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (84.47 per cent), Rajasthan (88.58 per cent) and Uttar Pradesh (85.96 per cent). Among the females living in the rural areas of these four big States, the literacy ratio is abysmally low and is just 10 per cent and less, the lowest being 5.46 per cent among the rural female population of Rajasthan.

Looking at the male/female literacy rate in the districts of Tamil Nadu, we find the highest proportion of literacy among the males (75.60 per cent) in Madras district (or Madras City), closely followed by the district of Kanniyakumari (68.55 per cent). Literacy among males ranges between 50 and 60 per cent in seven districts and is 60—70 per cent in five more districts. The lowest male literacy rate (38.98 per cent) is recorded in Dharmapuri district.

Female literacy rate is again the highest in Madras (60.69 per cent), followed by Kanniyakumari district (59.08 per cent). Very low female literacy rate of 18.60 per cent is recorded in Dharmapuri district. The other districts with low rates of less than 25 per cent are South Arcot (23.81 per cent) and Pudukkottai (23.86 per cent). These rates would be still lower in the above three districts if we consider only the rural female population of these districts (vide Table 5.3).

Rural-Urban differentials in literacy rates

It is common knowledge that more literate and educated people are found in cities and towns than in the villages. This is due to the greater educational and employment opportunities that are available in the urban areas as compared to the villages, thanks to the rapid industrial and commercial growth of the cities and towns. Among the rural population of the country, 29.65 per cent

are literates, while among the urban population, the rate is 57.40 per cent. The variation in the two rates, it may be observed, is very significant. In the case of Tamil Nadu, the rates are higher than that for the country, and are 38.56 per cent for rural areas and 63.45 per cent for the urban areas. The disparity in the case of Tamil Nadu is somewhat less. Among the districts, we notice higher rates in both rural and urban areas with a reasonable variation only in the district of Kanniyakumari (61.80 per cent in rural and 73.68 per cent in urban areas).

City literacy rates

Literacy rates are very high in the big cities and one may see this from the rates given for the 21 cities of Tamil Nadu with population of one lakh and above (Table 5.5). The highest rate among the cities is 76.77 per cent in Nagercoil city, while the cities of Thanjavur and Tiruchchirappalli also possess high ratios of 70.69 and 70.51 per cent respectively. Barring Valparai, the Township known for its plantations and spices, which has a low percentage of 53.62 and also the city of Rajapalaiyam (58.53 per cent), both of which attained city status only in the 1981 Census by crossing the one lakh population mark, the rest of the 16 cities of the State have recorded good literacy rates of over 60 per cent.

Literacy by size-class of towns

That literates are more in the bigger cities and towns than in the smaller ones is generally well known. The reasons for this phenomenon again are obviously the availability of more educational and employment opportunities, well developed infrastructure, etc. This aspect of urban literacy with higher concentration of literates in the bigger cities and towns than in the smaller ones is well brought out in the census figures on literacy rates in the towns belonging to the six size classes. We observe (Table 5.7) that in the 21 big cities of Tamil Nadu, each having population of one lakh and more, 67.27 per cent of their total population of 7.83 million are literates. In the towns of Class II (i.e. population 50,000-99,999) whose number is 41, the literacy percentage is 63.62, which is slightly lower than in Class I cities. In Class III towns (89 towns), 59.18 per cent of the population are literates. The literacy percentages among the population in the other three smaller classes of towns, viz., IV, V and VI are respectively 57.73, 54.30 and 50.85. The variations in the literacy ratios depending on the population of towns is observed among males and females also when we consider them separately. The literacy ratio among males, which stands at a high figure of 75.25 per cent in Class

I cities and 73.02 per cent in Class II towns, falls gradually to 62.27 per cent in the last class of towns viz., VI. Similarly, among females too, only in Class I cities (58.80 per cent) and Class II towns (53.87 per cent), the ratio exceeds fifty per cent. From the Class III towns, the female literacy rate (48.66 per cent) falls gradually and it touches the lowest, viz., 38.83 per cent in the Class VI towns, i.e., towns having less than 5,000 population.

Effective literacy rates

Since according to the literacy definition as used in census, children below 5 years are excluded from considerations of literacy and marked 'illiterate', the effective literacy rate worked with reference to the total population after excluding 0-4 age group population, could be expected to give a more meaningful picture on the existing levels of literacy in the State. The effective literacy rate for Tamil Nadu works to 52.63 per cent in 1981, as against the rate of 46.76 per cent among the entire State's population. Effective literacy rates for the State and districts, separately for the rural and urban population and among males and females, are presented in Table 5.8. For the country as a whole, similar effective literacy rate works out to 41.44 per cent, against 36.23 per cent among the entire population. In the urban areas of Tamil Nadu, we find a higher rate of 70.92 per cent, as against a low of 43.54 per cent among the rural population.

Considering sex-wise, we find a higher effective literacy rate of 65.58 per cent among the State's male population and 39.37 per cent among females. In the urban areas of the State, we find a very high literacy ratio of 80.91 per cent among males and 60.45 per cent among the females.

Of the 16 districts, the rates are high and exceed 70 per cent only in Madras (75.98 per cent) and Kanniyakumari (72.02 per cent) districts. The districts with poorer percentages of literacy with less than even 50 per cent are North Arcot, South Arcot, Dharmapuri, Salem, Periyar and Pudukkottai. Of these, Dharmapuri has the lowest effective literacy rate of 33.26 per cent and the other five districts fall in the range of 40—50 per cent. There is enormous scope for further improvement in the literacy levels of the population of the State in the coming decades so as to achieve full literacy level and with the implementation of programmes of compulsory primary education, nutritious mid-day meals scheme, adult education programme, etc., better results could perhaps be expected in the next few years

To help such of those who require further detailed data on levels of education among literates and literacy levels in different age-groups, detailed social and cultural tables are brought out separately in another volume (Part IV) and these tables have been estimated from a sample of 20 per cent of the census schedules.

Extent of School/College attendance

Based on the answers to a new question added in the 1981 Census schedule on School/College attendance, we have compiled data on male and female population in the different age-groups, who are studying in schools and colleges. The school or college attended to by a person may be a recognised or unrecognised institution. Even if a person was receiving education through some correspondence course or attending some vocational course or even attending Adult Education School and the like, if he had returned himself as attending school/college, he was considered so irrespective of his work status. Table 5.9 gives the ratio of males and females in Tamil Nadu attending the educational institutions in the five five-year age groups from 0-4 upto 20-24. also giving data for each individual year for 5—9 years.

The data clearly reveal that the ratio of attendance of school/college in the different age-groups in substantially higher in the urban areas as compared to rural areas and again it is far higher among the males than among the females. This position is due to the fact that education helps one with more job opportunities and to attain better living standards which the urban dwellers are well aware of.

In the 5—9 age group in which most of the children attend primary classes of I to V, we find that the ratio of attendance is quite high—72.21 per cent among urban males, as against 59.69 per cent among the rural males. Considering females of this age group, the ratio is a little less viz., 68.35 per cent for urban females, as against 47.95 per cent among the rural females. The difference in the percentage is quite substantial when we move to the next higher five year age-groups of 10-14 and 15-19. The urban-rural difference in the extent of attendance of schools in 10-14 ages is very substantial and it is particularly large in the case of females. The ratio is only 34.35 per cent in the case of rural females, as against 65.70 per cent among urban females. Considering males of 10-14

years, nearly 60 per cent attend educational institutions in the rural areas against 77 per cent in urban areas. In the normal college going ages too, i.e., 15-19 years, one would naturally expect a higher attendance in the urban areas because of the enormous opportunities for higher education available in cities and towns. The extent of higher education among females is very poor even after so much of improvement in the last 2-3 decades. Among females of 15-19 ages in rural areas, just 6.56 per cent alone attend educational institutions. Similar ratio for urban females is 25.19 per cent.

The difference in the attendance ratios among males and females is comparatively much less in the urban than in the rural areas of the State. Comparing the data with that of the country as a whole, we find that the extent of attendance is higher in Tamil Nadu than in India in 5-9 and 10-14 age-groups. In the higher age-groups of 15-19 and 20-24, the ratio is more in the country than in Tamil Nadu both among males and females

TABLE 5.1

PERCENTAGE OF LITERATES IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU 1901 TO 1981

Year	India			Tamil Nadu		
	Percentage of literates			Percentage of literates		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1901* .	5.35	9.83	0.60	7.64	14.52	1.02
1911* .	5.92	10.56	1.05	9.18	17.14	1.53
1921* .	7.16	12.21	1.81	10.38	18.55	2.43
1931* .	9.50	15.59	2.93	11.34	19.98	2.94
1941* .	16.10	24.90	7.30	16.19	25.61	6.88
1951† .	16.67	24.95	7.93	20.85	31.73	10.06
1961 .	24.02	34.44	12.95	31.41	44.54	18.17
1971 .	29.45	39.45	18.70	39.46	51.78	26.86
1981 .	36.23	46.89	24.82	46.76	58.26	34.99

*For undivided India.

†Excludes Jammu & Kashmir.

TABLE 5.2

STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES ARRANGED IN THE ORDER OF LITERACY RANKING IN 1981 CENSUS AND COMPARISON WITH 1971 CENSUS

Rank in 1981	State/Union Territory	Literacy Rate, 1981	Literacy Rate, 1971	Rank in 1971	Percentage increase of literates
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Kerala	70.42	60.42	2	16.55
2	Chandigarh . . .	64.79	61.56	1	5.25
3	Delhi	61.54	56.61	3	8.71
4	Mizoram	59.88	53.79	4	11.32
5	Goa, Daman & Diu . .	56.66	44.75	6	26.61
6	Pondicherry . . .	55.85	46.02	5	21.36
7	Lakshadweep . . .	55.07	43.66	7	26.13
8	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	51.56	43.59	8	18.28
9	Maharashtra . . .	47.18	39.18	10	20.42
10	Tamil Nadu . . .	46.76	39.46	9	18.50
11	Gujarat	43.70	35.79	11	22.10
12	Nagaland . . .	42.57	27.40	19	55.36
13	Himachal Pradesh . .	42.48	31.96	15	32.92
14	Tripura	42.12	30.98	17	35.96
15	Manipur . . .	41.35	32.91	14	25.65
16	West Bengal . . .	40.94	33.20	13	23.31
17	Punjab	40.86	33.67	12	21.35
18	Karnataka . . .	38.46	31.52	16	22.02
19	Haryana . . .	36.14	26.89	20	34.40
20	Orissa	34.23	26.18	21	30.75
21	Meghalaya . . .	34.08	29.49	18	15.56
22	Sikkim	34.05	17.74	28	91.94
23	Andhra Pradesh . .	29.94	24.57	22	21.86
24	Madhya Pradesh . .	27.87	22.14	23	25.88
25	Uttar Pradesh . . .	27.16	21.70	24	25.16
26	Jammu & Kashmir . .	26.67	18.58	27	43.54
27	Dadra & Nagar Haveli .	26.67	14.97	29	78.16
28	Bihar	26.20	19.94	25	31.39
29	Rajasthan . . .	24.38	19.07	26	27.84
30	Arunachal Pradesh . .	20.79	11.29	30	84.15

Note.—Excludes Assam where Census was not held owing to disturbed conditions prevailing there at the time of 1981 Census.

TABLE 5.3

PERCENTAGE OF LITERATES IN THE DISTRICTS OF TAMIL NADU, 1981

Sl.No.	State/District	Total Rural Urban	Percentage of Literates		
			Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6
	TAMIL NADU . . .	T	46.76	58.26	34.99
		R	38.56	51.16	25.80
		U	63.45	72.50	53.99
1.	Madras	T	68.40	75.60	60.69
		R	..	..	..
		U	68.40	75.60	60.69
2.	Chengalpattu	T	48.00	59.72	35.75
		R	38.72	51.44	25.66
		U	62.56	72.44	51.94
3.	North Arcot . . .	T	40.89	53.48	28.04
		R	36.14	49.50	22.50
		U	56.80	66.78	46.60
4.	South Arcot	T	36.78	49.38	23.81
		R	32.16	45.33	18.64
		U	61.57	71.04	51.73
5.	Dharmapuri	T	29.00	38.98	18.60
		R	26.24	36.26	15.81
		U	55.67	65.07	45.75
6.	Salem	T	39.29	49.95	28.07
		R	32.69	43.69	21.11
		U	55.51	65.31	45.18
7.	Periyar	T	39.81	51.76	27.31
		R	34.33	46.67	21.47
		U	59.25	69.63	48.21
8.	Coimbatore	T	53.10	64.04	41.59
		R	41.94	54.34	29.14
		U	64.06	73.39	54.05
9.	Nilgiri	T	56.52	67.74	44.79
		R	51.21	63.93	38.28
		U	62.08	71.62	51.82

TABLE 5.3

PERCENTAGE OF LITERATES IN THE DISTRICTS OF TAMIL NADU, 1981

Sl. No.	State/District	Total Rural Urban	Percentage of Literates		
			Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Madurai	T	47.36	59.48	34.94
		R	38.13	51.79	24.26
		U	63.61	72.82	54.00
11.	Tiruchchirappalli . . .	T	45.62	58.43	32.61
		R	38.00	52.06	23.86
		U	67.16	76.13	57.81
12.	Thanjavur	T	50.36	62.63	37.94
		R	45.93	59.11	32.59
		U	65.13	74.39	55.77
13.	Pudukkottai	T	38.69	53.64	23.86
		R	34.88	50.49	19.45
		U	63.61	73.89	53.11
14.	Ramanathapuram . . .	T	45.32	58.92	32.02
		R	38.90	53.58	24.75
		U	61.64	72.19	50.97
15.	Tirunelveli	T	52.14	63.30	41.45
		R	47.17	59.07	35.94
		U	61.53	71.12	52.08
16.	Kanniyakumari . . .	T	63.85	68.55	59.08
		R	61.80	66.63	56.90
		U	73.68	77.85	69.49

TABLE 5·4

PERCENTAGE OF LITERATES IN THE TALUKS, 1981

Taluk/Independent Sub-taluk	Percentage of Literates		
	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4
MADRAS DISTRICT			
Madras	68.40	75.60	60.69
CHENGALPATTU DISTRICT			
1. Gummidipundi	31.83	43.67	19.62
2. Ponneri	41.28	52.58	29.61
3. Uttukkottai Sub-taluk	34.05	46.65	21.09
4. Tiruvallur	43.88	55.91	31.62
5. Pallipattu Sub-taluk	33.27	48.13	18.06
6. Tiruttani	35.27	48.05	22.15
7. Sriperumbudur	49.66	63.23	35.35
8. Saidapet	64.32	72.95	54.95
9. Chengalpattu	47.01	59.66	33.75
10. Kanchipuram	48.71	61.18	36.04
11. Uttiramerur	38.66	51.85	25.23
12. Madurantakam	36.53	48.77	24.03
NORTH ARCOT DISTRICT			
1. Arakkonam	42.29	55.66	28.64
2. Walajapet	46.29	60.31	32.07
3. Gudiyattam	44.45	56.39	32.23
4. Vaniyambadi	41.93	52.56	31.11
5. Vellore	50.56	61.54	39.40
6. Arani	43.13	57.66	28.54
7. Arcot	45.74	59.75	31.48
8. Cheyyar	36.66	51.27	21.87
9. Vandavasi	38.62	53.96	23.03
10. Polur	34.14	48.04	19.90
11. Tiruppattur	36.10	47.08	24.70
12. Chengam	27.88	38.54	16.81
13. Tiruvannamalai	38.91	51.57	25.91

TABLE 5.4

PERCENTAGE OF LITERATES IN THE TALUKS, 1981

Taluks/Independent Sub-taluk	Percentage of Literates		
	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4
SOUTH ARCOT DISTRICT			
1. Gingee	31.08	44.33	17.52
2. Tindivanam	34.52	47.40	21.19
3. Villupuram	39.59	51.76	26.90
4. Tirukkoyilur	31.97	44.04	19.58
5. Kallakkurichchi	28.25	39.66	16.62
6. Ulundurpettai	27.68	40.07	15.07
7. Panruti	45.28	57.98	32.08
8. Cuddalore	43.68	55.20	31.66
9. Vriddhachalam	35.61	50.32	20.55
10. Tittakudi	31.78	46.11	17.30
11. Chidambaram	47.63	60.02	35.05
12. Kattumannarkoil	41.50	55.23	27.47
DHARMAPURI DISTRICT			
1. Hosur	28.62	38.52	18.04
2. Denkanikota	24.67	33.81	15.01
3. Krishnagiri	31.25	41.77	20.50
4. Uttangarai	29.07	39.91	17.73
5. Palakkodu	24.82	34.22	15.08
6. Pennagaram	21.73	29.98	13.07
7. Dharmapuri	33.55	43.46	23.21
8. Harur	31.20	41.85	20.07
SALEM DISTRICT			
1. Mettur	38.00	47.76	27.39
2. Omalur	28.51	38.15	18.07
3. Yercaud	28.78	36.91	20.27
4. Salem	47.74	57.62	37.33
5. Attur	37.22	48.20	25.87
6. Rasipuram	38.62	49.44	27.40
7. Sankari	28.76	38.78	17.74
8. Tiruchengodu	39.76	51.45	27.48
9. Namakkal	40.53	53.28	27.59

TABLE 5.4

PERCENTAGE OF LITERATES IN THE TALUKS, 1981

Taluks/Independent Sub-taluk	Percentage of Literates		
	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4
PERIYAR DISTRICT			
1. Satyamangalam	33.48	43.88	22.63
2. Gopichettipalaiyam	36.38	47.71	24.53
3. Bhavani	32.47	42.94	21.41
4. Erode	49.85	61.56	37.43
5. Perundurai	38.29	51.61	24.27
6. Dharapuram	40.76	54.74	26.50
COIMBATORE DISTRICT			
1. Mettuppalaiyam	48.11	58.59	37.15
2. Avanashi	38.76	51.09	25.90
3. Palladam	48.50	60.81	35.58
4. Coimbatore	62.68	71.91	52.76
5. Pollachi	48.72	60.38	36.64
6. Udumalaippettai	46.95	59.10	34.48
NILGIRI DISTRICT			
1. Gudalur	54.37	64.05	44.44
2. Ootacamund	54.23	65.56	42.43
3. Kotagiri	52.55	66.57	38.31
4. Coonoor	63.86	74.39	52.43
MADURAI DISTRICT			
1. Palani	42.11	55.60	28.30
2. Vedasandur	33.39	47.09	19.69
3. Nattam	33.11	47.06	18.89
4. Dindigul	44.30	55.95	32.38
5. Kodaikanal	48.05	59.69	35.65
6. Uttamapalaiyam	47.39	60.27	34.14
7. Periyakulam	41.76	54.24	28.98
8. Nilakkottai	41.48	54.00	28.76
9. Melur	41.97	57.64	26.58
10. Madurai North	47.94	60.99	34.67
11. Madurai South	65.95	74.69	56.78
12. Usilampatti	35.64	48.65	22.10
13. Tirumangalam	44.14	58.09	30.25

TABLE 5.4

PERCENTAGE OF LITERATES IN THE TALUKS, 1981

Taluk/Independent Sub-taluk	Percentage of Literates		
	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4
TIRUCHCHIRAPPALLI DISTRICT			
1. Turaiyur	46.80	59.40	34.36
2. Perambalur	34.90	48.08	21.72
3. Ariyalur	34.27	49.19	19.13
4. Udayarpalayam	37.23	51.99	21.94
5. Lalgudi	47.85	60.85	34.94
6. Musiri	42.93	56.62	29.25
7. Karur	46.41	60.98	31.78
8. Kulittalai	33.22	46.02	20.36
9. Tiruchchirappalli	65.01	74.00	55.59
10. Manapparai	35.48	50.60	20.14
THANJAVUR DISTRICT			
1. Sirkazhi	45.83	57.97	33.39
2. Mayuram	52.83	64.45	41.18
3. Tiruvidaimarudur	49.06	62.12	35.90
4. Kumbakonam	55.95	66.77	44.93
5. Nannilam	51.39	63.94	38.74
6. Papanasam	47.67	59.87	35.44
7. Tiruvaiyaru	51.49	63.09	39.85
8. Thanjavur	59.61	69.91	48.93
9. Orattanadu	39.15	53.67	24.60
10. Mannargudi	50.39	62.56	38.03
11. Thiruvarur	54.96	66.75	43.10
12. Nagappattinam	52.41	64.41	40.41
13. Tirutturaippundi	48.30	61.31	34.98
14. Vedaranniyam	47.76	62.65	32.62
15. Pattukkottai	45.04	58.04	31.97
16. Peravurani	41.69	56.03	27.25
PUDUKKOTTAI DISTRICT			
1. Kulattur	29.85	43.97	15.60
2. Pudukkottai	46.52	59.70	33.01
3. Alangudi	39.22	55.58	22.74
4. Tirumayam	38.51	54.75	23.50
5. Arantangi	42.17	57.22	27.18
6. Avadaiyar Kovil	38.56	53.60	23.60

TABLE 5.4

PERCENTAGE OF LITERATES IN THE TALUKS, 1981

Taluk/Independent Sub-taluk	Percentage of Literates		
	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4
RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT			
1. Tiruppattur	41.81	56.85	27.87
2. Karaikkudi	53.16	65.34	41.30
3. Devakottai	48.10	62.76	34.08
4. Tiruvadanai	41.76	57.07	27.18
5. Sivaganga	41.52	56.38	27.29
6. Manamadurai Sub-taluk	42.51	58.10	27.02
7. Ilaiyankudi Sub-taluk	41.15	56.04	27.31
8. Paramakkudi	44.39	59.08	30.20
9. Tiruchchuli	36.40	52.03	21.30
10. Aruppukkottai	50.64	64.13	37.32
11. Virudunagar	52.81	64.98	40.53
12. Srivilliputtur	43.47	56.69	30.36
13. Rajapalaiyam	48.98	62.29	35.42
14. Sattur	47.04	59.31	34.82
15. Kamudi	40.88	55.10	26.98
16. Mudukulattur	34.58	48.25	21.17
17. Ramanathapuram	48.01	59.37	37.13
18. Rameswaram Sub-taluk	50.56	60.25	40.09
TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT			
1. Sivagiri Sub-taluk	37.67	52.38	23.34
2. Sankarankovil	40.38	54.51	26.42
3. Kovilpatti	49.08	62.05	36.55
4. Vilattikulam	48.28	61.45	35.73
5. Ottappidaram	47.07	59.30	35.23
6. Tuticorin	64.24	71.85	56.34
7. Srivaikuntam	52.42	63.27	42.45
8. Tirunelveli	57.79	68.86	46.95
9. Tenkasi	45.25	59.81	30.98
10. Shencottah	43.63	56.67	30.54
11. Ambasamudram	51.35	63.50	39.79
12. Nanguneri	55.77	64.33	47.97
13. Sattankulam	61.13	65.69	57.16
14. Tiruchchendur	62.68	68.37	57.68
KANNIYAKUMARI DISTRICT			
1. Vilavankod	59.49	64.64	54.24
2. Kalkulam	61.48	65.54	57.31
3. Thovala	65.10	71.11	59.05
4. Agastiswaram	71.41	76.18	66.65

TABLE 5.5

PERCENTAGE OF LITERATES IN CITIES, 1981

Sl.No.	Name of the City Class-I)	Population	No. of literates	Percentage of literates
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Madras (M.C.)	3,276,622	2,241,149	68.40
2.	Tiruvottiyur (M)	134,014	85,579	63.86
3.	Kanchipuram (M)	130,926	81,155	61.99
4.	Avadi (T.S.)	124,701	74,922	60.08
5.	Ambattur (T.S.)	115,901	79,765	68.82
6.	Vellore (M)	174,247	106,339	61.03
7.	Cuddalore (M)	127,625	77,850	61.00
8.	Salem (M)	361,394	226,723	62.74
9.	Erode (M)	142,252	93,395	65.65
10.	Coimbatore(M)	704,514	487,286	69.17
11.	Tiruppur (M)	165,223	102,014	61.74
12.	Valparai (T.S.)	115,452	61,906	53.62
13.	Madurai (M.C.)	820,891	563,563	68.65
14.	Dindigul (M)	164,103	101,302	61.73
15.	Tiruchchirappalli (M)	362,045	255,289	70.51
16.	Thanjavur (M)	184,015	130,072	70.69
17.	Kumbakonam (M)	132,832	90,938	68.46
18.	Rajapalaiyam (M)	101,640	59,485	58.53
19.	Tuticorin (M)	192,949	132,110	68.47
20.	Tirunelveli (M)	128,850	85,654	66.48
21.	Nagercoil (M)	171,648	131,780	76.77

M.C.—Municipal Corporation; M—Municipality; T.S.—Township.

TABLE 5.6

PERCENTAGE OF LITERATES IN INDIA, STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES, 1981

Sl. No.	India/State/Union Territory	Total Rural Urban	Percentage of Literates		
			Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6
	INDIA*	T	36.23	46.89	24.82
		R	29.65	40.79	17.96
		U	57.40	65.83	47.82
	STATES:				
1.	Andhra Pradesh . . .	T	29.94	39.26	20.39
		R	23.24	32.25	14.08
		U	51.99	61.89	41.55
2.	Bihar	T	26.20	38.11	13.62
		R	22.50	34.38	10.17
		U	52.18	62.47	39.81
3.	Gujarat	T	43.70	54.44	32.30
		R	36.20	47.85	24.06
		U	60.31	68.62	51.13
4.	Haryana	T	36.14	48.20	22.27
		R	30.33	43.44	15.37
		U	56.86	64.95	47.35
5.	Himachal Pradesh . .	T	42.48	53.19	31.46
		R	40.42	51.36	29.36
		U	67.44	73.32	60.04
6.	Jammu and Kashmir . .	T	26.67	36.29	15.88
		R	21.63	31.64	10.47
		U	45.56	53.55	36.44
7.	Karnataka	T	38.46	48.81	27.71
		R	31.05	42.06	19.77
		U	56.71	64.98	47.78
8.	Kerala	T	70.42	75.26	65.73
		R	69.11	74.13	64.25
		U	76.11	80.10	72.20

TABLE 5.6

PERCENTAGE OF LITERATES IN INDIA, STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES, 1981

Sl. No.	India/State/Union Territory	Total Rural Urban	Percentage of Literates		
			Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Madhya Pradesh . . .	T	27.87	39.49	15.53
		R	21.22	32.91	8.99
		U	54.02	64.41	42.26
10.	Maharashtra . . .	T	47.18	58.79	34.79
		R	38.15	51.25	24.88
		U	63.92	71.80	54.65
11.	Manipur	T	41.35	53.29	29.06
		R	37.37	49.33	25.06
		U	52.44	64.30	40.20
12.	Meghalaya	T	34.08	37.89	30.08
		R	27.45	30.83	23.96
		U	64.12	68.90	58.82
13.	Nagaland	T	42.57	50.06	33.89
		R	38.59	46.09	30.25
		U	64.23	69.26	56.91
14.	Orissa	T	34.23	47.10	21.12
		R	31.49	44.51	18.45
		U	54.77	65.13	42.72
15.	Punjab	T	40.86	47.16	33.69
		R	35.21	41.91	27.63
		U	55.63	60.73	49.72
16.	Rajasthan	T	24.38	36.30	11.42
		R	17.99	29.65	5.46
		U	48.35	60.55	34.45
17.	Sikkim	T	34.05	43.95	22.20
		R	30.05	40.25	18.24
		U	54.86	61.44	45.42
18.	Tamil Nadu . . .	T	46.76	58.26	34.99
		R	38.56	51.16	25.80
		U	63.45	72.50	53.99
19.	Tripura	T	42.12	51.70	32.00
		R	38.23	48.24	27.64
		U	73.66	79.95	67.09

1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Uttar Pradesh . . .	T	27.16	38.76	14.04
		R	23.06	35.18	9·49
		U	45.88	54.73	35.43
21.	West Bengal . . .	T	40.94	50.67	30.25
		R	33.12	43.58	22.06
		U	62.66	69.08	54.82
	UNION TERRITORIES				
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	T	51.56	58.72	42.14
		R	46.58	53.94	37.07
		U	65.54	71.69	56.98
2.	Arunachal Pradesh . .	T	20.79	28.94	11.32
		R	18.51	26.36	9.60
		U	53.22	60.80	41.18
3.	Chandigarh . . .	T	64.79	69.00	59.31
		R	44.73	52.29	33.74
		U	66.15	70.19	60.94
4.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli .	T	26.67	36.32	16.78
		R	24.71	34.32	14.91
		U	54.17	62.91	44.28
5.	Delhi	T	61.54	68.40	53.07
		R	47.56	60.11	32.08
		U	62.64	69.05	54.71
6.	Goa, Daman & Diu . .	T	56.66	65.59	47.56
		R	52.68	62.39	43.08
		U	64.99	71.96	57.39
7.	Lakshadweep . . .	T	55.07	65.24	44.65
		R	51.98	62.25	41.57
		U	58.65	68.66	48.25
8.	Mizoram	T	59.88	64.46	54.91
		R	55.24	60.19	49.92
		U	74.06	77.26	70.47
9.	Pondicherry . . .	T	55.85	65.84	45.71
		R	47.98	59.39	36.30
		U	63.04	71.77	54.23

*Excludes Assam.

TABLE 5.7

PROPORTION OF LITERATES BY SEX AND SIZE-CLASS OF TOWNS

Size-Class of towns	Population			Literates			Percentage of literates to total population		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Class I . .	7,831,844	4,030,870	3,800,974	5,268,276	3,033,352	2,234,924	67.27	75.25	58.80
„ II . .	2,747,071	1,398,173	1,348,898	1,747,584	1,020,968	726,616	63.62	73.02	53.87
„ III . .	2,757,964	1,400,209	1,357,755	1,632,050	971,401	660,649	59.18	69.38	48.66
„ IV . .	1,765,276	893,564	871,712	1,019,175	608,198	410,977	57.73	68.06	47.15
„ V . .	645,126	325,682	319,444	350,311	211,636	138,675	54.30	64.98	43.41
„ VI . .	204,594	104,895	99,699	104,040	65,322	38,718	50.85	62.27	38.83
All towns . .	15,951,875	8,153,393	7,798,482	10,121,436	5,910,877	4,210,559	63.45	72.50	53.99

TABLE 5.8

EFFECTIVE LITERACY RATES IN THE DISTRICTS OF TAMIL NADU*

Sl. No.	State/District	Total Rural Urban	Percentage of Literates		
			Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6
	TAMIL NADU . . .	T	52.63	65.58	39.37
		R	43.54	57.83	29.10
		U	70.92	80.91	60.45
1.	Madras	T	75.98	83.74	67.63
		R	..	..	..
		U	75.98	83.74	67.63
2.	Chengalpattu . . .	T	54.48	67.60	40.68
		R	44.03	58.47	29.19
		U	70.79	81.48	59.17
3.	North Arcot . . .	T	46.84	61.17	32.16
		R	41.46	56.68	25.85
		U	64.76	76.11	53.15
4.	South Arcot . . .	T	42.03	56.44	27.22
		R	36.88	51.98	21.38
		U	69.13	79.76	58.09
5.	Dharmapuri . . .	T	33.26	44.72	21.33
		R	30.11	41.61	18.13
		U	63.74	74.47	52.39
6.	Salem	T	43.51	55.46	30.99
		R	36.17	48.54	23.26
		U	61.59	72.45	50.14
7.	Periyar	T	43.69	56.78	29.99
		R	37.55	51.05	23.48
		U	65.83	77.16	53.73
8.	Coimbatore . . .	T	58.38	70.34	45.77
		R	45.84	59.37	31.86
		U	70.84	81.01	59.89
9.	Nilgiri	T	62.82	75.17	49.88
		R	56.63	70.67	42.36
		U	69.38	79.78	58.10

*Excludes 0-4 age group population.

TABLE 5.8

EFFECTIVE LITERACY RATES IN THE DISTRICTS OF TAMIL NADU

Sl. No.	State/District	Total Rural Urban	Percentage of Literates		
			Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Madurai	T	53.34	67.00	39.33
		R	43.06	58.56	27.36
		U	71.28	81.50	60.58
11.	Tiruchchirappalli	T	51.01	65.41	36.43
		R	42.61	58.46	26.71
		U	74.55	84.48	64.18
12.	Thanjavur	T	56.36	70.10	42.46
		R	51.53	66.35	36.56
		U	72.29	82.49	61.96
13.	Pudukkottai	T	44.08	61.14	27.16
		R	39.79	57.66	22.17
		U	71.73	83.20	59.97
14.	Ramanathapuram	T	51.57	67.31	36.31
		R	44.49	61.63	28.15
		U	69.28	81.11	57.31
15.	Tirunelveli	T	58.83	71.76	46.57
		R	53.34	67.21	40.40
		U	69.13	80.07	58.41
16.	Kanniyakumari	T	72.02	77.26	66.69
		R	69.90	75.23	64.45
		U	82.06	86.97	77.16

TABLE 5.9

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION IN YOUNGER AGE-GROUPS IN TAMIL NADU, ATTENDING SCHOOLS/COLLEGES, 1981

Age-group	Percentage attending Schools/Colleges			
	Rural		Urban	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5
0—4	0.31	0.25	1.95	1.69
5	19.59	16.69	32.85	31.99
6	58.61	49.72	69.99	67.01
7	69.60	56.09	83.95	79.41
8	73.46	57.51	87.23	82.09
9	79.53	61.11	89.49	83.34
5—9	59.69	47.95	72.21	68.35
10—14	59.81	34.35	77.38	65.70
15—19	21.57	6.56	40.73	25.19
20—24	3.72	0.80	10.38	3.41

CHAPTER VI

LANGUAGES WE SPEAK

In the 1981 Census, a new question on the 'Language mainly spoken in the Household' was asked in the Household Schedule along with the two usual language questions on 'mother tongue' and 'other languages known' in the Individual Slip. The institutional households which are linguistically heterogeneous and may or may not have a uniform household language are excluded from these data. Out of the total population of 48,408,077 in the State, the institutional population is only 318,796 constituting 0.66 per cent.

Question 5 on 'Language mainly spoken in the household' in the Households Schedule was canvassed in all the households other than institutional households. The raw returns were rather unusually large. All these returns were scrutinized, following usual linguistic methods, including studying 'language specimens' and undertaking field investigations.

The distribution of the 1981 household population by languages grouped into scheduled languages and languages other than scheduled are shown in alphabetical order in Parts A and B of Table 6 given below:

TABLE 6 — PART A

STATEMENT SHOWING THE SPEAKERS OF HOUSEHOLD POPULATION BY LANGUAGE MAINLY SPOKEN IN THE HOUSEHOLD (INCLUSIVE OF VARIANTS GROUPED UNDER EACH) SPECIFIED IN SCHEDULE VIII TO THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

Language	Number of speakers
1	2
1. Assamese	194
2. Bengali	3,715
3. Gujarati	217,038
4. Hindi	111,589

TABLE 6—PART A

Languages	Number of speakers
1	2
5. Kannada	1,149,893
6. Kashmiri	102
7. Malayalam	577,890
8. Marathi	65,196
9. Oriya	1,380
10. Punjabi	5,082
11. Sanskrit	244
12. Sindhi	9,967
13. Tamil	41,045,591
14. Telugu	3,988,467
15. Urdu	864,811

TABLE 6 — PART B

STATEMENT SHOWING THE SPEAKERS OF HOUSEHOLD POPULATION BY LANGUAGE MAINLY SPOKEN IN THE HOUSEHOLD (INCLUSIVE OF VARIANTS WHERE GROUPED) OTHER THAN THOSE SPECIFIED IN SCHEDULE VIII TO THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA.

Languages	Number of speakers
1	2
1. Adi	3
2. Anal	18
3. Ao	2
4. Arabic/Arbi	365
5. Bhili/Bhilodi	29
6. Coorgi/Kodagu	344
7. Dogri	53
8. English	27,392
9. Garo	4

TABLE 6—PART B

Languages	Number of speakers
1	2
10. Gondi	42
11. Gorkhali/Nepali	2,585
12. Halabi	3
13. Kinnauri	4
14. Koch	11
15. Koda/Kora	867
16. Konkani	5,803
17. Korku	80
18. Korwa	13
19. Kurukh/Oraon	14
20. Lahauli	279
21. Lahnda	18
22. Limbu	2
23. Lushai/Mizo	3
24. Manipuri/Meithei	94
25. Monpa	6
26. Mundari	2
27. Naga	14
28. Paite	31
29. Parji	3
30. Santali	33
31. Tibetan	2
32. Tripuri	4
33. Tulu	5,608
34. Vaiphei	538
35. Other languages	3,853

Out of the total population (excluding institutional household population) of 48,089,281 in the State, 48,041,159 are the speakers of Schedule VIII languages, constituting 99.90 per cent and 48,122 are the speakers of other languages, constituting 0.10 per cent to total household population.

In both Parts A & B of the table, variants have been grouped in some cases under the relevant languages. This has been done on the basis of linguistic information readily available or in the light of studies already made. These identifiable variants which returned 10,000 or more speakers each at all-India level and have been grouped under Parts A and B languages are shown below:

Part A

Gujarati . . .	Saurashtra
Hindi . . .	Awadhi, Bhojpuri, Garhwali, Kumauni, Lamani/Lambadi, Maithili, Marwari, Pawari/Powari, Rajasthani
Kannada . . .	Badaga, Kuruba/Kurumba
Malayalam . . .	Pania
Sindhi . . .	Kachchhi

Part B

Bhili/Bhilodi . .	Kokna/Kokni/Kukna
Lahnda . . .	Multani, Punchhi

All other returns falling under Part B and which returned less than 10,000 speakers each at the all-India level or were not linguistically identifiable are included in the category 'others' occurring as the last entry in Part B.

CHAPTER VII

RELIGIONS WE FOLLOW

India is the birth place for many popular religions *viz.*, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism. Religion is a basic cultural characteristic of the population our country. Every citizen of our country is guaranteed freedom to profess his/her religion or faith by the Constitution, as we are a secular state.

Religious composition of the population is of great interest to population scholars, as it is related to important aspects of demography like marital status, occupation and migration, apart from its effect on birth and death rates. Its influence on literacy and education and occupational pattern of population is also felt to a certain extent. For information and data on religions, one has to refer to census, which forms the chief source. Every decennial census collects valuable data on religion which provide an interesting picture of the various religious persuasions of the people. They are in fact of great interest to the lay men, administrators as well as scholars. Sociologists and others research scholars are interested in studying the influence of religion on other characteristics such as literacy, migration, marriage and also on economic conditions, etc. The importance given to religion could be noted from the very fact that in the earlier censuses, the main tabulations were based on religion, instead of the economic classification, which is being adopted only from 1951 census.

Religion data in the censuses

Till 1941, important population characteristics like age, sex, literacy, occupation, etc. were presented on the basis of religion. From 1951 census onwards, these classifications by religion were given up and only the number of persons following each religion was presented.

In the 1971 census, the enumerators were instructed to record one's religion in the Individual Slip against the tenth question. They were also asked not to mistake religion for caste and that if a person informed that he had no religion, it might be recorded accordingly.

During the 1981 census, the question on religion was included in both the main schedules viz., Individual Slip used for

every person and Household Schedule for every household, that were canvassed. In the Individual Slip, the particulars of the religion was recorded against question No. 8, while in Household Schedule, the particulars of the religion of the Head of the Household was recorded against question No. 2 of Part I relating to household particulars. The head of the household for census purposes is the person on whom the chief responsibility for the maintenance of the household falls.

A household is defined for the purpose of census, as a group of persons who commonly live together and would take their meals from a common kitchen, unless the exigencies of work prevented any of them from doing so. There could be a household of persons related by blood or a household of unrelated persons or a mix of both. Examples of households with unrelated members are boarding houses, messes, hotels, residential hostels, rescue homes, jails, ashrams, etc. These are called institutional households. In the case of institutional households, the information on religion of the head of the household was not collected in the Household Schedule. However, the information on religion of each inmate of the institutional household was collected in the Individual Slip, filled-in by the enumerator for every person in the institutional household.

Collection of 'religion' data—instructions

The instructions issued to the enumerators for ascertaining details on religion are as under: "You have to record the religion of the head of the household as given by him against this question. While writing the religion, you have to write the abbreviations as follows on the line against this question and not in any dotted boxes, provided at the end of the dotted line against this question (meant for coding at a subsequent stage).

For Buddhists, write B

For Christians, write C

For Hindus, write H

For Jains, write J

For Muslims, write M

For Sikhs, write S

For others, record actual religion as returned fully. If a person says that he has no religion, it may be recorded accordingly. If a person refuses to state his religion you may write 'religion not stated'. You should not enter into any argument with the

household for filling up this question. You are bound to record faithfully whatever religion is returned by the head of the household. For institutional households, put 'X' against this question". In this chapter, an analysis of the data based on the main religious community to which the head of the household belonged, (as returned in question No. 2 of the Household Schedule of the 1981 census) has been presented. Thus, the data discussed in this chapter are based on information on the religion of the head of the household in respect of normal households and the houseless households. (i.e. all excluding institutional households) and information on the religion of each individual as returned for question No. 8 of the Individual Slip in respect of individuals in the institutional households.

Religions in India and Tamil Nadu

Even though there are many religions and faiths in India, actually, the great majority of the Indian population follow mainly the six major religions. These are Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism and Jainism. The number of persons belonging to each of these major religions and their sex break-up in India and in the state as a whole are given in Table 7.1. However, the figures presented here should be taken with the limitation of the fact that the religion of only the heads of the normal and houseless households has been considered for the purpose of tabulation, except the institutional households, in which case the religion of every member has been taken into account for the purpose of tabulation.

It may be seen from this table that the Hindus are the predominant population in both all India as well as in Tamil Nadu with 549,724, 717 and 43,016,546 respectively. Next to Hinduism, Islam with 75,571,514 population occupies the second place in all India. In Tamil Nadu, Christians with 2,798,048 occupy the second place. In India, Christians numbering 16,174,498 occupy the third place, whereas in Tamil Nadu, Muslims (2,519,947) constitute the third important religious group. Further order of strength of other religions at all India level are Sikhs (13,078,146) followed by Buddhists (4,719,900) and Jains (3,192,572). In Tamil Nadu, we find that 49,564 Jains, followed by 4,395 Sikhs and 735 Buddhists occupy the last three ranks among the six major religious groups. It is also interesting to note that of the six major religious groups, only among the Muslims, females (1,263,002) out number the males (1,256,945) in Tamil Nadu. In the case of other religions, it is the males who are more in number than the females.

Table 7.2 presents the population under major religions and their proportion to total population in India and Tamil

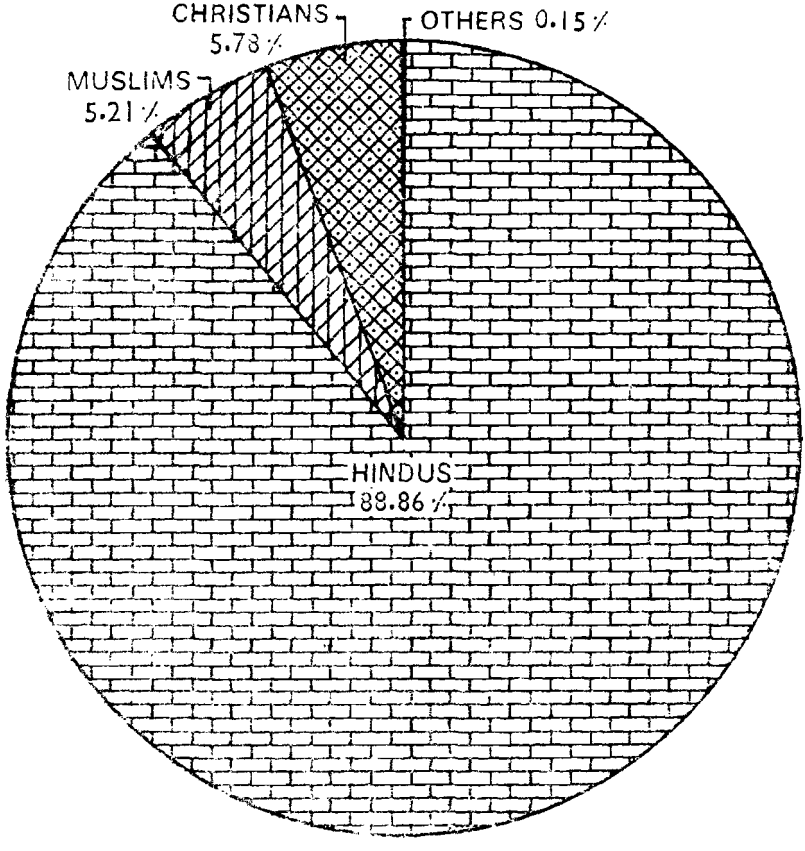
Nadu. While a very high proportion of the population both in India and Tamil Nadu are Hindus, it is observed that the proportion of Hindus in Tamil Nadu is considerably higher than that in India. Hindus form 88.86 per cent of the population of Tamil Nadu, as against 82.63 per cent in the country as a whole. It is worthy of note that the proportion of Hindus among the total population both in India and Tamil Nadu has slightly gone down during 1971-81—from 82.72 per cent to 82.63 per cent in the case of India and from 89.02 per cent to 88.86 per cent in Tamil Nadu. In this connection, it should be borne in mind that the 1981 Census could not be conducted in Assam and the figures, therefore, exclude the data for this State.

Muslims who constitute 11.36 per cent of India's population in 1981 are the second largest religious group in the country after the Hindus. In Tamil Nadu, however, we find that Christians who form 5.78 per cent of the population of the State are in the second place followed closely by Muslims who form 5.21 per cent occupying the third place. In the country as a whole, Christians form the third prominent religious group with 2.43 per cent of the population. It is interesting to note that while the percentage of population of Muslims of our country has gone up from 11.20 per cent in 1971 to 11.36 per cent in 1981, the Christian population of India has decreased from 2.59 per cent in 1971 to 2.43 per cent in 1981. Christian population of Tamil Nadu has, however, recorded an increase from 5.75 per cent in 1971 to 5.78 per cent in 1981. The Muslim population of Tamil Nadu also has increased from 5.11 per cent 1971 to 5.21 per cent in 1981.

The decadal growth rate of population relating to the six major religious groups in Tamil Nadu during 1971-81 are as follows:

Religion	Decadal growth rate (1971-81) (per cent)
Hindus	17.29
Christians	18.17
Muslims	19.78
Jains	20.60
Sikhs	0.92
Buddhists	(—)35.98 (Decline)

POPULATION BY RELIGION, 1981



All the three major religions, except Hindus, have registered a higher growth rate than the general population growth rate of 17.50 per cent, registered in Tamil Nadu during the decade. Buddhists have registered a negative growth rate i.e., decline of (—) 35.98 per cent during the decade. The number of Buddhists in Tamil Nadu as per 1981 is only 735 and it was 1,148 in 1971.

Population by Religion in the districts

Table 7.3 furnishes the percentage distribution of population under each religon to total population of the district as a whole, as also separately for the rural and urban areas. It may be seen from the table that in all the districts, Hindus form the bulk of the population, the percentage ranging from 56.99 per cent in Kanniyakumari district to 96.37 per cent in Salem district. Besides Salem, Hindus form over 95 per cent in Periyar district also (95.54 per cent). There are six districts where Hindus constitute 90—95 per cent and six more districts have them in the range of 80—90 per cent. Nilgiri district has a low per cent (78.27) of Hindus, while Kanniyakumari district has the least. Next to Hinduism comes Islam in Madras, North Arcot, South Arcot, Dharmapuri, Salem, Periyar, Coimbatore, Madurai, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai and Ramanathapuram districts. In the remaining five districts viz., Chengalpattu, Nilgiri, Tiruchchirappalli, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari, it is Christianity which has the second largest following. In Kanniyakumari district, 38.77 per cent of the population are Christians, followed by Tirunelveli and Nilgiri districts where the Christians constitute 12.27 per cent and 12.17 per cent of their respective population. While the percentage of Muslims ranges from 2.22 in Salem district to 9.31 in the Nilgiri district, the percentage of Christians ranges from 1.36 in Salem district to 38.77 in Kanniyakumari district. There are nearly 50,000 Jains in the State, 51 per cent of whom are found in the Madras urban agglomeration. While Sikhs constitute hardly 0.01 per cent of the State's population, Buddhists form a negligible ratio.

Table 7.4 presents the percentage distribution of persons professing each religion in the State among the 16 districts. Madurai, North Arcot and South Arcot districts account for 9.59 per cent, 9.25 per cent and 9.02 per cent respectively of the total Hindu population in Tamil Nadu which adds to nearly 28 per cent of Hindus. As the large majority of the population profess Hinduism, the percentage distribution of the Hindus of Tamil Nadu among the districts is more or less similar to the general population distribution among the districts. Five

of the 16 districts viz., Madras, North Arcot, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram account for nearly 53 per cent of the Muslim population in the State. Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari districts, where persons professing Christianity abound in larger numbers, account for over 35 per cent of the Christian population of Tamil Nadu. About 79 per cent of the Sikh population in this State are spread over the districts of Madras, Chengalpattu, Coimbatore and Nilgiri. Madras city has 43.13 per cent of the Buddhist population in Tamil Nadu and North Arcot district accounts for another 24.90 per cent of the State's Buddhists. Madras city, Chengalpattu, North Arcot and South Arcot districts account for nearly 90 per cent of the Jains in the State.

Rural-Urban distribution of major religious groups

In Tamil Nadu as a whole, it is observed that Hindus form a considerably higher percentage in rural areas than in urban areas—91.73 per cent in rural and 83.04 per cent in urban areas. As regards other communities viz., Christians and Muslims, they form a higher percentage in urban areas than in rural areas. This is but natural since the urban population is relatively more cosmopolitan with a variety of religious group than the rural population. Thus, the Christians from 6.76 per cent among the urban population of Tamil Nadu, rural population. In the State's rural areas, 2.90 per cent of the population alone are Muslims, while among the urban population of the State, Muslims form 9.90 per cent.

The pattern of distribution of the population of the major religious communities in the rural and urban areas of Tamil Nadu is as follows:

Religious Community	Rural population	Percentage to rural population	Urban population	Percentage to urban population
1	2	3	4	5
HINDUS	29,770,547	91.73	13,245,999	83.04
CHRISTIANS . . .	1,720,290	5.30	1,077,758	6.76
MUSLIMS	940,805	2.90	1,579,142	9.90
JAINS	11,829	0.04	37,735	0.24
SIKHS	491	N	3,904	0.02
BUDDHISTS . . .	209	N	523	N

N—Negligible

Among the minority religious communities, the Jains are considerably higher in urban areas, constituting 0.24 per cent of the urban population, as against their ratio of just 0.04 per cent in the rural areas. Sikhs who are mostly migrants to Tamil Nadu from Punjab and other North Indian States have migrated more into the urban areas than to the rural areas. So also, the number of Buddhists are considerably more in urban areas than in rural areas.

In Madras city, 84.36 per cent of the population are Hindus. Muslims and Christians form 8.11 and 6.72 per cent respectively. Madras being a leading city of Tamil Nadu, each of the groups *viz.*, Jains, Sikhs and Buddhists form a percentage higher than that for the urban areas of Tamil Nadu as a whole. In Madras city, these three groups form 0.70, 0.04 and 0.01 per cent respectively and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu as a whole, their corresponding percentages are 0.24 and 0.02 in respect of Jains and Sikhs, while the percentage of Buddhists is negligible.

Proportion of population under each religion in 1971 and 1981

A little over 89 per cent of the State's population were Hindus in 1971. In 1981, their proportion has slightly dwindled to 88.86 per cent. During the decade 1971-81, the Hindu population has increased only by 17.29 per cent, whereas the total population has increased by 17.50 per cent. At all India level also, the percentage of Hindu population to total population has decreased from 82.72 per cent in 1971 to 82.63 per cent in 1981. In Tamil Nadu, the percentage of Muslim population to total population was 5.11 in 1971 and it has increased to 5.21 in 1981. The decadal percentage growth of Muslim population in Tamil Nadu during 1971-81 is 19.78. In India as a whole, the percentage of Muslim population to total population has increased from 11.20 per cent in 1971 to 11.36 per cent in 1981. As compared to the country, Muslims constitute a much lesser proportion of the population in our State. The proportion of Christians in Tamil Nadu has also increased from 5.75 per cent in 1971 to 5.78 per cent in 1981. The Christian population has increased by 18.17 per cent during 1971-81 in Tamil Nadu. The percentage of Christian population to total population in India as a whole, on the other hand, has decreased from 2.59 per cent in 1971 to 2.43 per cent in 1981.

Sex Ratio among different Religions

The sex ratio, that is females per 1,000 males, is 977 for the entire Tamil Nadu in 1981, as against 978 in 1971. It is 974 for Hindus, 1,005 for Muslims and 997 for Christians in 1981, as against 976, 994 and 995 respectively during 1971. It may be noted here that females outnumber males among the Muslims. This shows that the sex ratio among the people belonging to the major religion, *viz.*, Hinduism, is considerably lesser than that among the two other religious communities of Muslims and Christians. The same trend is observed both in 1971 as well as in 1981 Censuses in the State. It is significant that the sex ratio among Muslims reveals a sizable increase in 1981 over that in 1971. There is a marginal rise in the sex ratio among Christians too. But, the sex ratio among Hindus, however, has declined in 1981 to 974 from 976 in 1971.

The sex ratio among the Sikhs is 726 in 1981, as against 586 only during 1971 and this can be explained by the fact that the Sikhs who are migrants to Tamil Nadu are predominantly males. The sex ratios of Jains and Buddhists are 906 and 767 in 1981, as against 869 and 547 respectively during 1971. Table 7.5 gives the sex ratio for the three major religious groups at State and district level. The ratios exceed 1,000 revealing larger number of females than males in all the three religious groups in the southern districts of Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli, following the general trend in these districts. Lowest sex ratios among Hindus and Muslims (937 and 893) are noticed in Madras city. For Christians, the lowest sex ratio among the districts (914) is seen in Coimbatore district.

Variation in the religious composition of population, 1971 and 1981

Table 7.6 furnishes the percentage distribution of population among the six major religions, 'other religions and persuasions' and 'religion not stated' during 1971 and 1981 in Tamil Nadu. It may be seen from this table that in all the 16 districts of Tamil Nadu, a very large proportion of the population follow Hinduism. In the districts of Chengalpattu, North Arcot, South Arcot, Dharmapuri, Salem, Periyar, Coimbatore, and Madurai, Hindus acount for over 90 per cent of the population. In Tiruchchirappalli, Thanjavur and Pudukkottai districts, the Hindus account for about 89 per cent of the population. Kanniyakumari district has the lowest ratio of the population under Hinduism, viz., 56.99 per cent. Among the districts, it is noticed

that there is a slight decrease in the proportion of Hindu population in most of the districts during the period 1971-81. There is however, a marginal increase in the case of Periyar, Madurai, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari districts. Nilgiri district is, however, an exception and it has registered a notable increase of the Hindu population during the decade, from 76.45 per cent in 1971 to 78.27 per cent in 1981. Next to Hindus, comes the Muslims whose proportion is above six per cent in many districts (Madras, North Arcot, Nilgiri, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli). The proportion of Muslims among the population is very low (less than three per cent) only in the two districts of Periyar and Salem. It is observed that in the two districts of Madras and Nilgiri, where comparatively higher ratio of Muslims is found than in the other districts, the ratios have declined in 1981 as compared to 1971. In Madras, Muslims constituted 8.30 per cent in 1971 and in 1981 they form 8.11 per cent. In Nilgiri, the ratio of Muslims to total population has declined from 9.66 per cent in 1971 to 9.31 per cent in 1981.

Christians too, slightly improved their share in the total population (5.78 per cent) in 1981 at state level than what they were in 1971 (5.75 per cent). However, we find that in some of the districts where their ratio among the population is comparatively higher as in Kanniyakumari, Nilgiri and Tirunelveli districts, the ratio has declined in 1981 compared to 1971.

Religious composition of the population in big urban centres

It is generally believed that the religious composition of the people living in big urban centres varies from the prevailing religious composition in the other places. Big urban complexes are said to contain people belonging to different religions, culture and languages and are supposed to be more cosmopolitan in nature. With a view to highlight this, a table showing the proportion of population in big urban agglomerations having two lakhs of population and above in 1981, professing different religions has been compiled (Table 7.7). There are ten such urban agglomerations in Tamil Nadu. Although Hindus constitute the major percentage in these urban agglomerations, the ratio of Hindus among population varies from 71.73 per cent in Tuticorin urban agglomeration and 73.66 per cent in Tirunelveli urban agglomeration in the south to 90.65 in Salem urban agglomeration and 91.16 per cent in Tiruppur urban agglomeration in the western part of the state. Madras urban agglomeration, which is the biggest urban complex with nearly 4.3

million population, has 84.81 per cent of its population as Hindus. Salem, Erode, Coimbatore and Madurai urban agglomerations too have a high ratio of over 85 per cent of Hindus. Muslims are found to constitute comparatively higher ratios in Tirunelveli urban agglomeration (18.02 per cent). Vellore urban agglomeration (17.92 per cent) and Tiruchchirappalli urban agglomeration (12.83 per cent). They form between four to eight per cent in the seven big urban agglomerations of the state. Christians constitute nearly one-fourth of the population (24.23 per cent) in Tuticorin urban agglomeration. The other urban agglomerations where they are found in considerable proportions are Tiruchchirappalli (11.22 per cent), Tirunelveli (8.24 per cent) and Madras (7.14 per cent). People belonging to other religions like Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs are not in good proportion and even in Madras urban agglomeration, where they are in larger numbers, they form together only 0.66 per cent of which Jains alone account for 0.59 per cent.

TABLE 7.1

POPULATION UNDER MAJOR RELIGIONS IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU

Religion	*INDIA			TAMIL NADU		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Hindus	549,724,717	284,365,289	265,359,428	43,016,546	21,791,085	21,225,461
2. Muslims	75,571,514	39,019,643	36,551,871	2,519,947	1,256,945	1,263,002
3. Christians	16,174,498	8,118,081	8,056,417	2,798,048	1,400,841	1,397,207
4. Sikhs	13,078,146	6,957,891	6,120,255	4,395	2,546	1,849
5. Buddhists	4,719,900	2,416,824	2,303,076	735	416	319
6. Jains	3,192,572	1,644,578	1,547,994	49,564	26,011	23,553
7. Other religions & persuasions	2,766,285	1,376,106	1,390,179	16,972	8,840	8,132
8. Religion not stated	60,217	32,011	28,206	1,870	940	930
TOTAL POPULATION	665,287,849	343,930,423	321,357,426	48,408,077	24,487,624	23,920,453

*Excludes the population of Assam.

TABLE 7.2

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION OF INDIA AND TAMIL NADU BY MAJOR RELIGIONS

Religion	*INDIA		TAMIL NADU	
	Population	Proportion (per cent) to total population	Population	Proportion (per cent) to total population
1	2	3	4	5
1. Hindus	549,724,717	82.63	43,016,546	88.86
2. Muslims	75,571,514	11.36	2,519,947	5.21
3. Christians	16,174,498	2.43	2,798,048	5.78
4. Sikhs	13,078,146	1.96	4,395	0.01
5. Buddhists	4,719,900	0.71	735	N
6. Jains	3,192,572	0.48	49,564	0.10
7. Other religions and persuasions	2,766,285	0.42	16,972	0.04
8. Religion not stated	60,217	0.01	1,870	N
TOTAL	665,287,849	100.00	48,408,077	100.00

*Excludes the population of Assam where the 1981 Census could not be held.

N—Negligible.

TABLE 7.3

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION UNDER EACH RELIGION TO TOTAL POPULATION IN THE DISTRICTS

Sl. No.	State/District	Total Rural Urban	Hindus	Muslims	Christians	Sikhs	Buddhists	Jains	Other religions and persuasions	Religion not stated
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	TAMIL NADU .	T	88.86	5.21	5.78	0.01	N	0.10	0.04	N
		R	91.73	2.90	5.30	N	N	0.04	0.03	N
		U	83.04	9.90	6.76	0.02	N	0.24	0.04	N
1.	Madras . .	T	84.36	8.11	6.72	0.04	0.01	0.70	0.05	0.01
		R	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		U	84.36	8.11	6.72	0.04	0.01	0.70	0.05	0.01
2.	Chengalpattu .	T	92.17	3.09	4.54	0.04	N	0.14	0.02	N
		R	95.03	1.91	2.99	0.01	N	0.04	0.02	N
		U	87.68	4.93	6.97	0.09	N	0.30	0.03	N
3.	North Arcot .	T	90.19	6.90	2.63	0.01	N	0.22	0.04	0.01
		R	95.13	2.40	2.25	N	N	0.19	0.02	0.01
		U	73.67	21.97	3.92	0.01	N	0.35	0.08	N
4.	South Arcot .	T	92.30	3.84	3.63	N	N	0.16	0.06	0.01
		R	93.45	2.86	3.50	N	N	0.12	0.06	0.01
		U	86.14	9.05	4.36	0.02	N	0.36	0.06	0.01

TABLE 7.3

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION UNDER EACH RELIGION TO TOTAL POPULATION IN THE DISTRICTS

Sl. No.	State/District	Total Rural Urban	Hindus	Muslims	Christians	Sikhs	Buddhists	Jains	Other religions and persuasions	Religion not stated
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
5.	Dharmapuri .	T	94.28	3.87	1.82	N	..	0.01	0.02	N
		R	95.73	2.49	1.76	N	..	N	0.02	N
		U	80.24	17.27	2.43	N	..	0.04	0.02	N
6.	Salem . . .	T	96.37	2.22	1.36	N	N	0.01	0.03	0.01
		R	98.04	0.89	1.05	N	N	..	0.02	N
		U	92.28	5.49	2.12	0.01	N	0.05	0.04	0.01
7.	Periyar . .	T	95.54	2.43	2.02	N	..	N	0.01	N
		R	97.38	1.00	1.62	N	..	N	N	N
		U	89.02	7.49	3.45	0.01	..	0.02	0.01	N
8.	Coimbatore . .	T	91.58	4.62	3.73	0.01	..	0.05	0.01	N
		R	97.27	1.36	1.36	N	..	N	0.01	N
		U	85.99	7.83	6.05	0.03	N	0.09	0.01	N
9.	Nilgiri . .	T	78.27	9.31	12.17	0.05	N	0.18	0.02	N
		R	86.57	5.10	8.32	N	..	0.01	N	N
		U	69.58	13.72	16.20	0.09	N	0.37	0.03	0 01
10.	Madurai . .	T	90.93	4.57	4.48	N	N	0.01	0.01	N
		R	*94.05*	*2.41*	*3.52*	*N*	..	..	*0.01*	*0.01*
		U	85.45	8.35	6.17	N	N	0.01	0.02	N

TABLE 7.3

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION UNNER EACH RELIGION TO TOTAL POPULATION IN THE DISTRICTS

Sl. No.	State/District	Total Rural Urban	Hindus	Muslims	Christians	Sikhs	Buddhists	Jains	Other religions and persuasions	Religion not stated
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11.	Tiruchchirappalli	T	89.26	4.72	5.96	N	N	0.01	0.05	N
		R	92.83	2.26	4.86	N	..	N	0.04	0.01
		U	79.18	11.67	9.06	0.01	N	0.03	0.05	N
12.	Thanjavur	T	88.71	6.98	4.16	N	N	0.02	0.13	N
		R	90.50	5.44	3.92	N	N	N	0.14	N
		U	82.73	12.13	4.94	0.01	N	0.10	0.09	N
13.	Pudukkottai	T	88.58	6.59	4.76	N	..	N	0.07	N
		R	89.65	5.57	4.72	N	..	..	0.06	N
		U	81.60	13.25	5.00	..	..	N	0.14	0.01
14.	Ramanathapuram	T	87.26	6.84	5.89	N	N	N	0.01	N
		R	88.46	5.07	6.46	N	N	..	0.01	N
		U	84.22	11.32	4.44	N	N	N	0.02	N
15.	Tirunelveli	T	80.81	6.90	12.27	N	N	0.01	0.01	N
		R	84.23	3.46	12.30	N	N	N	0.01	N
		U	74.35	13.40	12.22	N	N	0.02	0.01	N
16.	Kanniyakumari	T	56.99	4.23	38.77	N	N	N	0.01	N
		R	56.15	3.15	40.70	N	N	..	N	N
		U	61.05	9.38	29.53	N	..	N	0.03	0.01

N—Denotes negligible percentage.

TABLE 7.4

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION OF EACH MAJOR RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY AMONG THE DISTRICTS

State/District	Total population	Hindus	Muslims	Christians	Sikhs	Buddhists	Jains	Other religions and persuasions	Religion not stated
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
TAMIL NADU	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	00.00
1. Madras . .	6.77	6.43	10.55	7.87	29.08	43.13	46.03	9.56	11.44
2. Chengalpattu	7.47	7.75	4.43	5.86	32.42	12.11	10.36	4.35	3.21
3. North Arcot .	9.12	9.25	12.09	4.15	4.37	24.90	19.97	9.80	16.31
4. South Arcot .	8.68	9.02	6.40	5.46	4.55	1.50	13.46	14.02	15.56
5. Dharmapuri .	4.13	4.38	3.07	1.30	0.73	..	0.29	2.27	1.87
6. Salem . .	7.11	7.71	3.04	1.67	2.62	2.99	0.97	5.14	7.59
7. Periyar . .	4.27	4.59	1.99	1.50	1.61	..	0.19	0.77	0.64
8. Coimbatore .	6.32	6.51	5.61	4.07	10.31	5.03	2.86	1.83	5.94
9. Nilgiri . .	1.30	1.15	2.33	2.74	6.78	0.82	2.36	0.64	2.30
10. Madurai .	9.37	9.59	8.22	7.26	0.39	1.50	0.47	2.80	12.03
11. Tiruchchirappalli	7.46	7.49	6.77	7.69	2.46	3.13	0.64	9.76	10.59
12. Thanjavur .	8.40	8.38	11.26	6.03	2.36	2.72	1.93	30.06	0.43
13. Pudukkottai .	2.39	2.38	3.02	1.97	0.48	..	N	4.68	1.39
14. Ramanathapuram	6.89	6.77	9.05	7.02	0.54	1.22	0.07	1.92	5.29
15. Tirunelveli .	7.38	6.71	9.78	15.68	1.16	0.27	0.37	1.87	3.16
16. Kanniyakumari	2.94	1.89	2.39	19.73	0.14	0.68	0.03	0.53	2.25

TABLE 7.5

SEX RATIO AMONG THE MAJOR RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES FOR STATE AND DISTRICTS IN 1981

State/District	Total population	Hindus	Muslims	Christians
1	2	3	4	5
TAMIL NADU . .	977	974	1,005	997
1. Madras	934	937	893	956
2. Chengalpattu . . .	957	959	916	949
3. North Arcot . . .	979	977	984	1,024
4. South Arcot . . .	972	970	1,004	994
5. Dharmapuri . . .	959	960	944	936
6. Salem	949	949	923	972
7. Periyar	956	955	942	999
8. Coimbatore . . .	950	953	911	914
9. Nilgiri	957	951	962	994
10. Madurai . . .	975	975	970	975
11. Tiruchchirappalli . .	985	984	996	996
12. Thanjavur . . .	988	976	1,151	1,001
13. Pudukkottai . . .	1,007	1,007	1,010	1,000
14. Ramanathapuram . .	1,023	1,015	1,134	1,020
15. Tirunelveli . . .	1,044	1,036	1,099	1,070
16. Kanniyakumari . .	985	979	1,000	993

TABLE 7.6

POPULATION DISTIBUTION BY RELIGIOD IN STATE AND DISTRICTS, 1971 AND 1981

State/District	Census Year	Hindus	Muslims	Christians	Jains	Buddhists	Sikhs	Other Religions and persuasions	Religion not stated
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
TAMIL NADU	1971	89.02	5.11	5.75	0.10	N	0.01	0.01	N
	1981	88.86	5.21	5.78	0.10	N	0.01	0.04	N
1. Madras . .	1971	84.42	8.30	6.52	0.67	0.03	0.05	0.01	..
	1981	84.36	8.11	6.72	0.70	0.01	0.04	0.05	0.01
2. Chengalpattu .	1971	92.93	2.82	4.08	0.13	N	0.04	N	..
	1981	92.17	3.09	4.54	0.14	N	0.04	0.02	N
3. North Arcot .	1971	90.58	6.51	2.64	0.27	N	N	N	N
	1981	90.19	6.90	2.63	0.22	N	0.01	0.04	0.01
4. South Arcot .	1971	92.50	3.66	3.65	0.17	N	N	0.02	N
	1981	92.30	3.84	3.63	0.16	N	N	0.06	0.01
5. Dharmapuri .	1971	94.28	4.60	1.07	N	N	N	0.01	0.04
	1981	94.28	3.87	1.82	0.01	—	N	0.02	N
6. Salem .	1971	96.62	2.06	1.30	0.01	N	N	0.01	N
	1981	96.37	2.22	1.36	0.01	N	N	0.03	0.01
7. Periyar . .	1971	95.44	2.36	2.17	N	..	0.01	0.02	..
	1981	95.54	2.43	2.02	N	..	N	0.01	N

TABLE 7·6

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY RELIGION IN STATE AND DISTRICTS, 1971 AND 1981

State/District	Census Year	Hindus	Muslims	Christians	Jains	Buddhists	Sikhs	Other Religions and persua-sions	Religion not stated
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8. Coimbatore .	1971	92.01	4.25	3.67	0.05	N	0.02	N	..
	1981	91.58	4.62	3.73	0.05	N	0.01	0.01	N
9. Nilgiri . .	1971	76.45	9.66	13.62	0.22	N	0.04	0.01	..
	1981	78.27	9.31	12.17	0.18	N	0.05	0.02	N
10. Madurai .	1971	90.88	4.54	4.57	N	N	N	0.01	N
	1981	90.93	4.57	4.48	0.01	N	N	0.01	N
11. Tiruchchirappalli	1971	89.52	4.48	5.94	0.01	N	0.02	0.03	N
	1981	89.26	4.72	5.96	0.01	N	N	0.05	N
12. Thanjavur .	1971	89.18	6.63	4.10	0.03	N	N	0.06	N
	1981	88.71	6.98	4.16	0.02	N	N	0.13	N
13. Pudukkottai .	1971	88.80	6.49	4.66	..	..	N	0.05	N
	1981	88.58	6.59	4.76	N	..	N	0.07	N
14. Ramanathapuram	1971	87.36	6.98	5.65	N	..	N	0.01	..
	1981	87.26	6.84	5.89	N	N	N	0.01	N
15. Tirunelveli .	1971	80.47	7.02	12.51	N	N	N	N	N
	1981	80.81	6.90	12.27	0.01	N	N	0.01	N
16. Kanniyakumari	1971	56.81	4.28	38.90	N	N	0.01	N	..
	1981	56.99	4.23	38.77	N	N	N	0.01	N

egligible.

TABLE 7.7

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY RELIGION IN URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS HAVING POPULATION OF 200,000 AND ABOVE IN 1981

Urban Agglomeration	Total population	Hindus	Muslims	Christians	Buddhists	Jains	Sikhs	Other religions and persuasions	Religion not stated
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Madras . .	100.00	84.81	7.35	7.14	0.01	0.59	0.06	0.04	N
2. Vellore . .	100.00	76.43	17.92	5.24	N	0.29	0.03	0.08	0.01
3. Salem . .	100.00	90.65	6.87	2.31	N	0.09	0.02	0.06	N
4. Erode . .	100.00	89.05	7.29	3.60	..	0.03	0.02	0.01	N
5. Tiruppur . .	100.00	91.16	5.77	3.03	N	0.02	0.01	0.01	N
6. Coimbatore .	100.00	86.12	7.64	6.04	N	0.14	0.04	0.01	0.01
7. Madurai .	100.00	87.86	6.61	5.49	..	0.03	N	0.01	N
8. Tiruchchirappalli	100.00	75.84	12.83	11.22	N	0.05	0.01	0.05	N
9. Tuticorin . .	100.00	71.73	4.02	24.23	N	..	N	0.02	N
10. Tirunelveli .	100.00	73.66	18.02	8.24	N	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.01

N—Negligible percentage.

CHAPTER VIII

SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

'Castes' and their enumeration in census

The prevalence of caste system among the population of our country is too well known to everybody. The origin and early history of the caste system, dating back to the old historic age and their growth through the ages would indeed form a separate subject of study, by itself, and many people may not be aware of this. But it is probably well known that the main divisions of the community, that have been in existence in the last few centuries, are the four castes of Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaisya and the Sudra. Those belonging to the last class viz., Sudra include many groups who have suffered social and economic inequities since ages. Till the year 1935, these groups were known as the 'Depressed Classes'. They were listed systematically at the 1931 Census. But, the term "Scheduled Castes" was applied to these groups for the first time in the Government of India Act of 1935. A list of Castes was also published by the then Government under the Government of India (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1936. When after Independence, the new Constitution came into being in 1950, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been assured of certain special rights and benefits. On the eve of 1951 Census, the Government of India accepted the policy of official discouragement of community distinctions based on caste. It was, therefore, decided that no general race, caste or tribe enquiries should be made, but an enquiry may be made regarding race, caste or tribe only to the extent necessary for providing information relating to certain special groups of people referred to in the Constitution of India. Thus, data on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were gathered from 1951 Census onwards, which marked a complete departure from the traditional recording of all races, tribes or castes in the earlier censuses. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are those who were notified by the President under Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution. Scheduled Castes refer to such castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within such castes, races or tribes as are declared to be Scheduled Castes by the President of India by public notification. Similarly, Scheduled Tribes refer to such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are declared by the President.

List of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

The lists were first notified under the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950. These lists have been modified or amended or supplemented from time to time. On the reorganisation of the States, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Lists (Modification) Order came into force from 20th October, 1956. The latest list, pertaining to Tamil Nadu, as available in the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 1976 was followed during the 1981 Census enumeration.

'Untouchability' was not the only criterion for the declaration by the President, of a caste or tribe as scheduled. It is, however, well known that the Scheduled Castes represent those communities which suffer or have suffered from untouchability in one form or other, chiefly by caste or by the profession which they practice and have been subjected to social disabilities. Most of the Scheduled Tribes live in the forests and hills, more or less in seclusion as islands in the river of progress.

Provisions under the Constitution

The Scheduled Castes and Tribes are still backward, socially and economically and need protection from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. The Constitution of India has, therefore, conferred on them special protection. Untouchability has been abolished under Article 17 of the Constitution and its practice in any form is forbidden. As per Article 46 of the Constitution, it is the responsibility of the State to "promote with special care, the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation". They are also entitled to certain safeguards regarding employment in Government. To consider the claims of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes while making appointments to services or posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a State, special provision has been made under Article 335 of the Constitution. To implement special programmes for the amelioration of the living conditions of this less fortunate section of the people, it is necessary to know how many Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are there, their distribution, literacy levels, etc. All these particulars are specially gathered in the decennial censuses.

Enumeration of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in 1981 Census

During the census enumeration of 1981, the enumerators were provided with a list containing names of Scheduled

Castes and Scheduled Tribes recognised in Tamil Nadu. This list was based on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act of 1976 (Central Act 108 of 1976). The enumerators were instructed to record a person as a Scheduled Caste or a Tribe, provided the name given by that person was recognised and included in the concerned area, as per the list provided to them. If the person belonging to a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe returned his caste or tribe by a synonym or generic name of a caste or a tribe, the enumerator was instructed to reckon him as a Schedluled Caste or Scheduled Tribe, only if that name found place in the list given to the enumerator. When the answer to the question on Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe was returned in general terms, then the person was not reckoned as belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe as the case may be. The enumerator was instructed not to write the name of Scheduled Caste in general terms as 'Harijan', 'Achhut' etc, nor the name of the Scheduled Tribe as 'Adivasi' or 'Girijan' in the census schedules. Only the exact name of Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe as in the notified list was asked to be entered. Persons who insisted that they belong to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe, but did not belong to any of the notified communities applicable to the area, as reflected in the list supplied, were not treated as belonging to Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe.

Scheduled Castes are recognised only among persons following 'Hindu' or 'Sikh' religion and the enumerators made necessary cross-checks with the answers against the question on 'religion' before entering answers to the question on Scheduled Caste. Scheduled Tribes, however, exist among all the religious groups. Details of names of Scheduled Castes/Tribes have been ascertained and recorded in both the Household Schedule (under questions 3 and 4 of Part-I) and the Individual Slip (questions 9 and 10), canvassed during 1981 Census. In the former schedule, the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe details related only to the heads of households. The Individual Slip was canvassed for every member of the household and so the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe particulars are noted for each individual in this schedule.

Names of Scheduled Castes/Tribes in Tamil Nadu

"Under the list of Scheduled Castes in Tamil Nadu, there are 76 names. Fourteen of these names of Scheduled Castes are recognised only in Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district, while one is in Nilgiri district alone. The

rest i.e., 61 Castes, are recognised throughout Tamil Nadu. There are 36 Scheduled Tribes in the State and three of these are recognised in all areas, except Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district. While one tribe (Kurumbar) is recognised in Nilgiri district alone, another (Kanikaran, Kanikkar) is recognised only in Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district. Yet another tribe (Malayali) is recognised only in the districts of Dharmapuri, North Arcot, Pudukkottai, Salem, South Arcot and Tiruchchirappalli. Barring these six, the other 30 tribes are recognised in the entire state of Tamil Nadu.

The list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes recognised in Tamil Nadu, as per the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act of 1976, is reproduced in the Annexe, at the end of this chapter.

Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population in Tamil Nadu

In Tamil Nadu, the population of the Scheduled Castes is 8,881,295 according to 1981 Census, thus accounting for 18.35 per cent of the total population of the State. In India as a whole, there are 104,754,623 persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, of whom 8.48 per cent are in our State. The ratio of Scheduled Castes varies from State to State. The five major States whose Scheduled Caste population adds up to nearly 60 per cent of the country's total Scheduled Castes are Uttar Pradesh (22.39%), West Bengal (11.46%), Bihar (9.68%), Tamil Nadu (8.48%) and Andhra Pradesh (7.60%). In India, the Scheduled Castes constitute 15.75 per cent of the total population. The proportion of Scheduled Castes to population, viz., 18.35 per cent, in Tamil Nadu is therefore higher than the all India average. The Scheduled Caste population in Tamil Nadu has increased by 21.40 per cent during the decade 1971-81, as compared to the decadal increase of 17.50 per cent of the entire State population. The decadal increase of the Scheduled Caste population of India during 1971-81 was 32.45 per cent. It should be noted here that in 1981, census could not be conducted in Assam due to the disturbed conditions prevailing there and, therefore, for purposes of 1971 and 1981 data, figures for Assam have not been taken into account.

In Tamil Nadu, there are 520,226 persons who are Scheduled Tribes. They form only 1.07 per cent of the total population of the State. In India, Scheduled Tribes number 51,628,638 and form 7.76 per cent of the total population of the country. The Scheduled Tribe population in Tamil Nadu is quite small when

compared with many other States and accounts for just 1.01 per cent of the total Scheduled Tribe population of the entire country. While Madhya Pradesh accounts for the largest proportion (23.22%) of the Scheduled Tribes of the country, the other States with very high ratios of the country's tribal population are Orissa (11.46%), Bihar (11.26%) and Maharashtra (11.18%).

In Tamil Nadu, the Scheduled Tribe population has increased by 67.00 per cent during the decade 1971-81, whereas it has increased only by 41.80 per cent in India as a whole, during the same period. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes put together constitute 19.42 per cent of the population in Tamil Nadu and 23.51 per cent in India.

Table 8.1 furnishes the population details of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the State and Union Territories of the country. It may be seen that among the various States, it is in Punjab that the Scheduled Castes form the highest percentage among population, viz., 26.87, closely followed by Himachal Pradesh, which has 24.62 per cent of its population as Scheduled Castes. Of the States, we find that barring Nagaland, where there are no Scheduled Castes, the lowest percentage of 0.41 per cent is found in Meghalaya. The hilly States of Nagaland and Meghalaya have 83.99 per cent and 80.58 per cent of their respective population as Scheduled Tribes. In Tripura and Manipur, the percentages of the respective population who constitute Scheduled Tribes are 28.44 and 27.30. Among the other remaining States, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa have a Scheduled Tribe population of 22.97 per cent and 22.43 per cent respectively. In Uttar Pradesh, the percentage of Scheduled Tribe population is a meagre 0.21. The Scheduled Tribes of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar and Maharashtra added together form slightly over 57 per cent of the country's tribes.

Distribution of Scheduled Castes in the districts and cities of Tamil Nadu

Let us now see how the Scheduled Castes are distributed within each district and whether they live mostly in the rural areas or well distributed between the rural and urban areas. In Table 8.2, the Scheduled Caste population in the different districts and Class I cities are given. It is observed that the proportion of Scheduled Castes is the highest in Chengalpattu district with 26.21 per cent and the least in Kanniyakumari district with 4.23 per cent. The other districts of Tamil Nadu which have over 20 per cent of their respective population as Scheduled

Castes are South Arcot (25.97 per cent), Thanjavur (23.21 per cent) and Nilgiri (23.04 per cent).

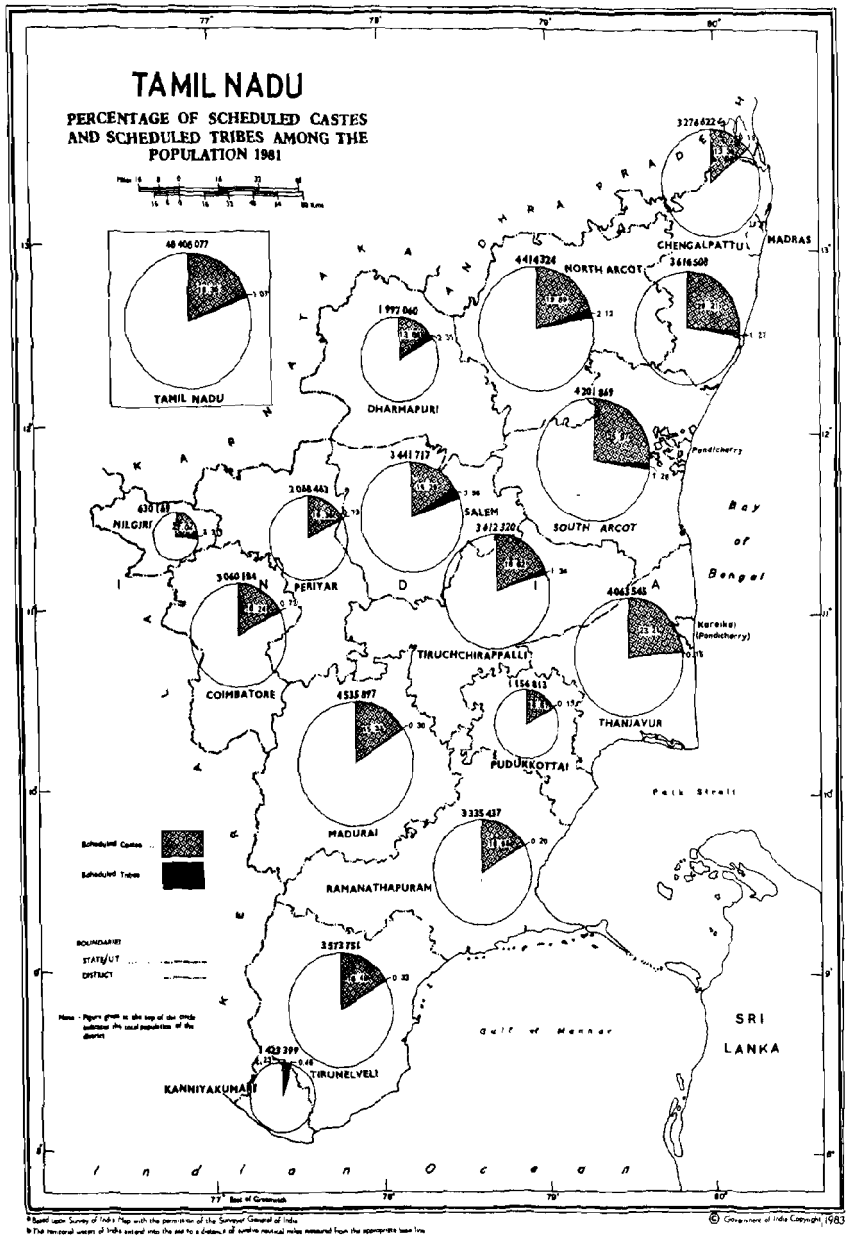
Among the 21 Class I cities of Tamil Nadu, the proportion of Scheduled Castes to the respective City population is highest in Valparai Township (46.55 per cent), while in Kanchipuram Municipality, it is a low 2.59 per cent. The poor ratio of less than ten per cent of Scheduled Castes in 13 out of the 21 Cities of the State clearly highlights the fact that fewer numbers of Scheduled Castes generally live in cities as compared to the rural areas and smaller towns where they are observed in higher proportions.

In Tamil Nadu, as a whole, out of 8.88 million Scheduled Caste population, 7.09 million (79.84 per cent) live in rural areas and only 1.79 million (20.16 per cent) live in urban areas. In all the districts except Nilgiri, the percentage of Scheduled Caste population is more in rural areas than in urban areas. This is due to the fact that the majority of Scheduled Caste population earn their livelihood through cultivation and agricultural labour. In each of the districts of South Arcot, Dharmapuri, Thanjavur and Pudukkottai, more than 90 per cent of the Scheduled Caste population live in rural areas. In Periyar, Tiruchchirappalli, Ramanathapuram and Kanniyakumari districts too, we find 85—90 per cent of them in the rural areas only. The percentage of Scheduled Castes among the rural population and that among the urban population of each district is also presented in Table 8.2.

The percentage distribution of the State's Scheduled Caste population among the districts is shown in Table 8.3. South Arcot district contains the largest proportion of 12.29 per cent of the Scheduled Caste population of Tamil Nadu. Chengalpattu and Thanjavur districts have respectively 10.67 and 10.62 per cent of Tamil Nadu's Scheduled Caste population, closely followed by North Arcot district with 9.88 per cent. Kanniyakumari district has the least ratio of 0.68 per cent of the State's Scheduled Caste population.

Distribution of Scheduled Tribes in the districts and cities of Tamil Nadu

Table 8.4 furnishes the Scheduled Tribe population of the different districts and Class I cities of Tamil Nadu. Of the 16 districts, it is in Salem we find that the Scheduled Tribes form the highest ratio, viz., 3.56 per cent of the population. Next comes Nilgiri district in which 3.31 per cent of the population are Scheduled Tribes. While in the two districts of North Arcot



Based upon Survey of India Map with the permission of the Surveyor General of India

The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line

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and Dharmapuri, Scheduled Tribes form 2 to 3 per cent of their respective population, in the districts of Chengalpattu, South Arcot and Tiruchchirapalli, they form one to 1.5 per cent of their respective population. In the remaining districts, the Scheduled Tribes form less than one per cent of the concerned district population. The ratio of Scheduled Tribes is found to be too poor (less than a quarter per cent) in Madras, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai and Ramanathapuram, which are coastal districts with very poor forest or mountainous regions.

Among all the 21 Class I towns, i.e., cities of Tamil Nadu, we find that the percentage of Scheduled Tribe population to total population is generally very small and less than one per cent. Only in the two cities viz., Avadi and Valparai Townships, the ratio is above half-a-per cent and in the rest of the cities, the percentage of Scheduled Tribes is even below 0.5 per cent.

Table 8.5 gives the percentage of Scheduled Tribe population in each district to the total Scheduled Tribe population in Tamil Nadu. Salem and North Arcot districts account for 23.54 per cent and 18.01 per cent respectively of the State's total Scheduled Tribes. While in South Arcot and Tiruchchirappalli districts also, the ratio of Scheduled tribes to State's total Scheduled Tribes is high, viz., 10.34 and 9.28 per cent respectively, in all the other districts, it is less than 9 per cent. The percentage of Scheduled Tribe population in each of the following districts to total Scheduled Tribe population in the State ranges between one and two per cent; viz., Ramanathapuram (1.27 per cent), Kanniyakumari (1.22 per cent). Thanjavur (1.16 per cent) and Madras (1.03 per cent). The contribution of Pudukkottai district to State's Scheduled Tribe population is the lowest, viz., 0.29 per cent.

The Scheduled Tribes, who are normally inhabitants of hilly regions, are naturally found in larger proportion in the rural areas than in urban areas. A little over ninety per cent (90.31 per cent) of the State's Scheduled Tribe population are inhabitants of rural areas, as against only 9.69 per cent who are in the urban areas. While 1.45 per cent of the State's population living in rural areas are Scheduled Tribes, only 0.32 per cent of those in the cities and towns (i.e. urban areas) are Scheduled Tribes. Of the 21 cities in the State, we find that only Madras, Madurai, Tiruchchirappalli and Avadi have in each sizable Scheduled Tribe population of over 1,000. The Scheduled Tribe population in the above four cities respectively are 5,373; 2,546; 1,686 and 1,204. All the other cities have each less than 700 Scheduled

Tribes. There are just 68 Scheduled Tribes in Erode city, while the city of Tiruppur is having a mere 18 persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes. The percentages of Scheduled Tribe population in the rural and urban areas of each district are presented in Table 8.4.

Literacy levels of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

Tables 8.6 and 8.7 give valuable data on literates among Schedules Castes and Tribes respectively in Tamil Nadu and its districts, rural-urbanwise. As against the percentage of 46.76 among the general population in Tamil Nadu, the percentages of literates among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the State are 29.67 and 20.46 respectively. It is interesting to note that while the literacy rate among Scheduled Castes in Tamil Nadu has increased from 21.82 per cent during 1971 to 29.67 per cent in 1981, the literacy rate among Scheduled Tribes has increased considerably from 9.02 per cent during 1971 to 20.46 per cent in 1981. The percentages of literates among males and females for Scheduled Castes during 1981 are 40.65 and 18.47, as against 32.2 and 11.3 during 1971 respectively. For Scheduled Tribes, the corresponding literacy ratios are 13.3 and 4.5 during 1971 and 26.71 and 14.00 during 1981. Among the general population, the percentage of literacy was 51.78 among males and 26.86 among females during 1971. The above rates have increased in 1981 to 58.26 per cent for males and 34.99 per cent for females.

As is to be expected, the percentage of literates among Scheduled Castes is far higher in the urban areas (44.54 per cent) when compared with rural areas (25.92 per cent). There has been a substantial increase in these ratios from 1971 to 1981. The corresponding urban and rural ratios recorded in the last 1971 Census are 34.17 per cent and 19.24 per cent. Among the Scheduled Tribes, the literacy rate in the urban areas is 34.21 per cent in 1981, as against 17.94 per cent during 1971. The rate in the rural areas in 1981 among the tribes is 18.98 per cent, as against just 8.50 per cent during 1971. Almost a similar trend is observed in the rural-urban areas of districts of Tamil Nadu.

Female literacy rates among Scheduled Castes/Tribes

Even though there has been an improvement in the literacy rates among the Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the last decade, we find that the female literacy rates are still far lower and there is enormous scope for their improvement. Improvement in the sta-

tus of women in society and their social and economic emancipation is closely linked to the improvement in their literacy rates. Very low literacy rates among the females belonging to Scheduled Castes/Tribes are observed in 1981, even after so many years of planned development and they fall far short of the average literacy rate among females of the State as also the literacy rates among the male Scheduled Castes and Tribes themselves. The female literacy rate for Scheduled Castes is 18.47 per cent and it is just 14.00 per cent for Scheduled Tribes. If we look at their literacy rates in the rural areas alone, where almost the vast majority of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes of the State are living, we see that the rates are appallingly low—14.73 per cent among female Scheduled Castes and 12.78 per cent among female Scheduled Tribes.

In view of the low ratios, urgent measures for improving the literacy levels among the Scheduled Castes/Tribes are called for. It is indeed encouraging to see that the rates are increasing, as observed from a comparison with the previous census data. The State Government have no doubt been implementing a number of special schemes for the improvement of school attendance among the children of Scheduled Castes/Tribes by opening of more schools, extension of free education, grant of scholarships, financial aid for books, note books, mid-day meals scheme, etc. In view of these, one could probably expect a better rate of literacy in the next census.

Workers among Scheduled Castes/Tribes

The proportion of workers among the Scheduled Castes and Tribes is more than that among the general population. As compared to 39.31 per cent of main workers among the State's population in 1981, the main workers among Scheduled Castes constitute 45.86 per cent and it is still higher viz., 48.20 per cent among the Scheduled Tribes. Quite a larger ratio of main workers are noticed among females of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. About 35 per cent each among the female population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are main workers in 1981 in the State and this is indeed striking when compared with State's female main worker ratio of just 22.36 per cent. A large majority of these female workers are engaged as agricultural labourers. Nearly 81 per cent of the main workers among Scheduled Castes are engaged in agriculture and allied work, and of this, agricultural labourers alone constitute 63 per cent and the balance represents cultivators. Among the State's Scheduled Tribe workers too, 81.36 per cent are engaged

in agriculture and allied work, of which 47.33 per cent represent cultivators and 34.03 per cent as agricultural labourers. Household industry engages just one to two per cent of the workers, both among Scheduled Castes and among Scheduled Tribes. That female workers among Scheduled Castes and Tribes are mostly engaged as labourers in the fields is obvious from the ratio of 77.75 per cent of female main workers among Scheduled Castes and 45.75 per cent among the female Scheduled Tribe workers who are agricultural labourers. Probably, increase in literacy and also improvement in social and economic status would help in a better distribution of workers among the Scheduled Castes/Tribes in future, particularly in other economic activities like industry, trade and commerce, transport, services, etc. The next decennial Census and the subsequent ones alone could throw light on improvement in this regard, i.e., broadbased distribution of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe workers in various economic activities, instead of heavy dependence on agricultural activities for livelihood, as seen now.

ANNEXE

List of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes relating to Tamil Nadu as per Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act of 1976.

Scheduled Castes:

1. Adi Andhra
2. Adi Dravida
3. Adi Karnataka
4. Ajila
5. Arunthathiyar
6. Ayyanavar (in Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district)
7. Baira
8. Bakuda
9. Bandi
10. Bellara
11. Bharatar (in Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district)
12. Chakkiliyan
13. Chalavadi
14. Chamar, Muchi
15. Chandala
16. Cheruman
17. Devendrakulathan
18. Dom, Dombara, Paidi, Panoo
19. Domban
20. Godagalli
21. Godda
22. Gosangi
23. Holeya
24. Jaggali
25. Jambuvulu
26. Kadaiyan

27. Kakkalan (in Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district)
28. Kalladi
29. Kanakkan, Padanna (in Nilgiri district)
30. Karimpalan
31. Kavara (in Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district)
32. Koliyan
33. Koosa
34. Kootan, Koodan (in Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district)
35. Kudumban
36. Kuravan, Sidhanar
37. Madari
38. Madiga
39. Maila
40. Mala
41. Mannan (in Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district)
42. Mavilan
43. Mogar
44. Mundala
45. Nalakeyava
46. Nayadi
47. Padamman (in Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district)
48. Pagadai
49. Pallan
50. Palluvan
51. Pambada
52. Panan (in Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district)
53. Panchama
54. Pannadi
55. Panniandi
56. Paraiyan, Parayan, Sambavar

57. Paravan (in Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district)
58. Pathiyan (in Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district)
59. Pulayan, Cheramar
60. Puthirai Vannan
61. Raneyar
62. Samagara
63. Samban
64. Sapari
65. Semman
66. Thandan (in Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district)
67. Thoti
68. Tiruvalluvar
69. Vallon
70. Valluvan
71. Vannan (in Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district)
72. Vathiriyan
73. Velan
74. Vetan (in Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district)
75. Vettiyan
76. Vettuvan (in Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district)

Scheduled Tribes:

1. Adiyan
2. Aranadan
3. Eravallan
4. Irular
5. Kadar
6. Kammara (excluding Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district)
7. Kanikaran, Kanikkar (in Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district)

8. Kaniyan, Kanyan
9. Kattunayakan
10. Kochu Velan
11. Konda Kapus
12. Kondareddis
13. Koraga
14. Kota (excluding Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district)
15. Kudiya, Melakudi
16. Kurichchan
17. Kurumbas (in Nilgiri district)
18. Karumans
19. Maha Malasar
20. Malai Arayan
21. Malai Pandaram
22. Malai Vedan
23. Malakkuravan
24. Malasar
25. Malayali (in Dharmapuri, North Arcot, Pudukkottai, Salem, South Arcot and Tiruchchirappalli districts)
26. Malayekandi
27. Mannan
28. Mudugar, Muduvan
29. Muthuvan
30. Palleyan
31. Palliyan
32. Palliyar
33. Paniyan
34. Sholaga
35. Toda (excluding Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district).
36. Uraly

TABLE 8.1

POPULATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES IN THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES

Sl. No.	India/State/ Union Territory	Total population	Scheduled Caste population	Percentage to total population	Scheduled Tribe population	Percentage to total population
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	INDIA . .	665,287,849	104.754,623	15.75	51,628,638	7.76
	States*					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	53,549,673	7,961,730	14.87	3,176,001	5.93
2.	Bihar . .	69,914,734	10,142,368	14.51	5,810,867	8.31
3.	Gujarat . .	34,085,799	2,438,297	7.15	4,848,586	14.22
4.	Haryana . .	12,922,618	2,464,012	19.07	..	..
5.	Himachal Pradesh	4,280,818	1,053,958	24.62	197,263	4.61
6.	Jammu and Kashmir . .	5,987,389	497,363	8.31	..	..
7.	Karnataka .	37,135,714	5,595,353	15.07	1,825,203	4.91
8.	Kerala . .	25,453,680	2,549,382	10.02	261,475	1.03
9.	Madhya Pradesh	52,178,844	7,358,533	14.10	11,987,031	22.97
10.	Maharashtra .	62,784,171	4,479,763	7.14	5,772,038	9.19
11.	Manipur . .	1,420,953	17,753	1.25	387,977	27.30
12.	Meghalaya .	1,335,819	5,492	0.41	1,076,345	80.58
13.	Nagaland . .	774,930	..	..	650,885	83.99
14.	Orissa . .	26,370,271	3,865,543	14.66	5,915,067	22.43
15.	Punjab . .	16,788,915	4,511,703	26.87	..	..
16.	Rajasthan .	34,261,862	5,838,879	17.04	4,183,124	12.21
17.	Sikkim . .	316,385	18,281	5.78	73,623	23.27
18.	Tamil Nadu .	48,408,077	8,881,295	18.35	520,226	1.07
19.	Tripura . .	2,053,058	310,384	15.12	583,920	28.44
20.	Uttar Pradesh .	110,862,013	23,453,339	21.16	232,705	0.21
21.	West Bengal .	54,580,647	12,000,768	21.99	3,070,672	5.63

TABLE 8.1—*Contd.*

POPULATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES IN THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES

Sl. No.	India/State/ Union Territory	Total population	Scheduled Caste population	Percentage to total population	Scheduled Tribe population	Percentage to total population
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Union Territories					
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	188,741	..	..	22,361	11.85
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	631,839	2,919	0.46	441,167	69.82
3.	Chandigarh .	451,610	63,621	14.09	..	..
4.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli . .	103,676	2,041	1.97	81,714	78.82
5.	Delhi . .	6,220,406	1,121,643	18.03	..	..
6.	Goa, Daman and Diu . . .	1,086,730	23,432	2.16	10,721	0.99
7.	Lakshadweep .	40,249	..	..	37,760	93.82
8.	Mizoram . .	493,757	135	0.03	461,907	93.55
9.	Pondicherry .	604,471	96,636	15.99	..	..

* Excludes the population of Assam where the 1981 Census could not be held owing to disturbed condition prevailing there.

TABLE 8.2(i)

SEHEDULED CASTE POPULATION IN THE DISTRICTS

State/District	Total/ Rural/ Urban	Total population	Scheduled Caste population	Percentage to total population
1	2	3	4	5
TAMIL NADU	T	48,408,077	8,881,295	18.35
	R	32,456,202	7,090,664	21.85
	U	15,951,875	1,790,631	11.23
1. Madras	T	3,276,622	437,916	13.36
	R	..	..	..
	U	3,276,622	437,916	13.36
2. Chengalpattu . . .	T	3,616,508	947,789	26.21
	R	2,208,722	732,890	33.18
	U	1,407,786	214,899	15.27
3. North Arcot . . .	T	4,414,324	877,804	19.89
	R	3,398,795	741,758	21.82
	U	1,015,529	136,046	13.40
4. South Arcot . . .	T	4,201,869	1,091,353	25.97
	R	3,542,246	1,011,447	28.55
	U	659,623	79,906	12.11
5. Dharmapuri . . .	T	1,997,060	276,714	13.86
	R	1,809,876	260,948	14.42
	U	187,184	15,766	8.42
6. Salem	T	3,441,717	560,267	16.28
	R	2,446,054	463,298	18.94
	U	995,663	96,969	9.74
7. Periyar	T	2,068,462	338,477	16.36
	R	1,613,259	297,057	18.41
	U	455,203	41,420	9.10
8. Coimbatore	T	3,060,184	496,855	16.24
	R	1,516,013	297,166	19.60
	U	1,544,171	199,689	12.93

TABLE 8.2(i)—*Contd.*

SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION IN THE DISTRICTS

State/District	Total/ Rural/ Urban	Total population	Scheduled Caste population	Percentage to total population
1	2	3	4	5
9. Nilgiri	T	630,169	145,174	23.04
	R	322,321	70,889	21.99
	U	307,848	74,285	24.13
10. Madurai	T	4,535,897	695,242	15.33
	R	2,892,285	579,754	20.04
	U	1,643,612	115,488	7.03
11. Tiruchchirappalli . . .	T	3,612,320	672,697	18.62
	R	2,668,596	583,888	21.88
	U	943,724	88,809	9.41
12. Thanjavur	T	4,063,545	943,343	23.21
	R	3,126,588	869,739	27.82
	U	936,957	73,604	7.86
13. Pudukkottai . . .	T	1,156,813	191,732	16.57
	R	1,003,145	178,907	17.83
	U	153,668	12,825	8.35
14. Ramanathapuram . .	T	3,335,437	556,291	16.68
	R	2,394,483	483,821	20.21
	U	940,954	72,470	7.70
15. Tirunelveli	T	3,573,751	589,468	16.49
	R	2,335,952	467,804	20.03
	U	1,237,799	121,664	9.83
16. Kanniyakumari . . .	T	1,423,399	60,173	4.23
	R	1,177,867	51,298	4.36
	U	245,532	8,875	3.61

TABLE 8.2(ii)

SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION IN CITIES

Cities	Total population	Scheduled Caste population	Percenntage to total population
1	2	3	4
1. Madras (M.C.) . . .	3,276,622	437,916	13.36
2. Tiruvottiyur (M) . . .	134,014	14,117	10.53
3. Kanchipuram (M) . . .	130,926	3,394	2.59
4. Avadi (T.S.)	124,701	16,307	13.08
5. Ambattur (T.S.) . . .	115,901	15,008	12.95
6. Vellore (M)	174,247	18,067	10.37
7. Cuddalore (M) . . .	127,625	14,100	11.05
8. Salem (M)	361,394	32,330	8.95
9. Erode (M)	142,252	10,851	7.63
10. Coimbatore (M) . . .	704,514	68,917	9.78
11. Tiruppur (M)	165,223	9,004	5.45
12. Valparai (T.S.). . . .	115,452	53,738	46.55
13. Madurai (M.C.) . . .	820,891	41,062	5.00
14. Dindigul (M)	164,103	9,873	6.02
15. Tiruchchirappalli (M) . .	362,045	23,872	6.59
16. Thanjavur (M). . . .	184,015	11,413	6.20
17. Kumbakonam (M) . . .	132,832	5,422	4.08
18. Rajapalaiyam (M) . . .	101,640	13,565	13.35
19. Tuiticorin (M) . . .	192,949	11,661	6.04
20. Tirunelveli (M) . . .	128,850	9,590	7.44
21. Nagercoil (M)	171,648	5,979	3.48

M.C.- Municipal Corporation; M - Municipality; T.S.– Township.

TABLE 8.3

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION OF TAMIL NADU AMONG THE DISTRICTS 1981

Sl No.	State District	Scheduled Caste Population	Percentage to total Scheduled Caste Population in the State
1	2	3	4
	TAMIL NADU	8,881,295	100.00
1.	Madras	437,916	4.93
2.	Chengalpattu	947,789	10.67
3.	North Arcot	877,804	9.88
4.	South Arcot	1,091,353	12.29
5.	Dharmapuri	276,714	3.12
6.	Salem	560,267	6.31
7.	Periyar	338,477	3.81
8.	Coimbatore	496,855	5.59
9.	Nilgiri	145,174	1.64
10.	Madurai	695,242	7.83
11.	Tiruchchirappalli	672,697	7.57
12.	Thanjavur	943,343	10.62
13.	Pudukkottai	191,732	2.16
14.	Ramanathapuram	556,291	6.26
15.	Tirunelveli	589,468	6.64
16.	Kanniyakumari	60,173	0.68

TABLE 8.4 (i)

SCHEDULED TRIBE POPULATION IN THE DISTRICTS

State/District	Total Rural Urban	Total Population	Scheduled Tribe population	Percentage to total population
1	2	3	4	5
TAMIL NADU . . .	T	48,408,077	520,226	1.07
	R	32,456,202	469,810	1.45
	U	15,951,875	50,416	0.32
1. Madras	T	3,276,622	5,373	0.16
	R	..	..	..
	U	3,276,622	5,373	0.16
2. Chengalpattu . . .	T	3,616,508	46,050	1.27
	R	2,208,722	36,874	1.67
	U	1,407,786	9,176	0.65
3. North Arcot. . . .	T	4,414,324	93,690	2.12
	R	3,398,795	89,557	2.63
	U	1,015,529	4,133	0.41
4. South Arcot . . .	T	4,201,869	53,775	1.28
	R	3,542,246	51,960	1.47
	U	659.623	1,815	0.28
5. Dharmapuri . . .	T	1,997,060	46,074	2.31
	R	1,809,876	44,986	2.49
	U	187.184	1,088	0.58
6. Salem	T	3,441,717	122,444	3.56
	R	2,446,054	121,193	4.95
	U	995,663	1,251	0.13
7. Periyar	T	2,068,462	15,191	0.73
	R	1,613,259	14,193	0.88
	U	455,203	998	0.22
8. Coimbatore	T	3,060,184	22,358	0.73
	R	1,516,013	20,487	1.35
	U	1,544,171	1,871	0.12

TABLE 8.4 (i)

SCHEDULED TRIBE POPULATION IN THE DISTRICTS

State District	Total Rural Urban	Total population	Scheduled Tribe population	Percentage to total population
1	2	3	4	5
9. Nilgiri	T	630,169	20,874	3.31
	R	322,321	14,433	4.48
	U	307,848	6,441	2.09
10. Madurai	T	4,535,897	13,646	0.30
	R	2,892,285	8,778	0.30
	U	1,643,612	4,868	0.30
11. Tiruchchirappalli . . .	T	3,612,320	48,294	1.34
	R	2,668,596	44,627	1.67
	U	943,724	3,667	0.39
12. Thanjavur	T	4,063,545	6,012	0.15
	R	3,126,588	2,653	0.08
	U	936,957	3,359	0.36
13. Pudukkottai . . .	T	1,156,813	1,516	0.13
	R	1,003,145	1,217	0.12
	U	153,668	299	0.19
14. Ramanathapuram . .	T	3,335,437	6,617	0.20
	R	2,394,483	4,189	0.17
	U	940,954	2,428	0.26
15. Tirunelveli	T	3,573,751	11,954	0.33
	R	2,335,952	8,801	0.38
	U	1,237,799	3,153	0.25
16. Kanniyakumari . . .	T	1,423,399	6,358	0.45
	R	1,177,867	5,862	0.50
	U	245,532	496	0.20

TABLE 8.4 (ii)

SCHEDULED TRIBE POPULATION IN CITIES

Sl.No.	Cities	Total Population	Scheduled Tribe population	Percentage to total population
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Madras (M.C.)	3,276,622	5,373	0.16
2.	Tiruvottiyur (M)	134,014	576	0.43
3.	Kanchipuram (M)	130,926	304	0.23
4.	Avadi (T.S.)	124,701	1,204	0.97
5.	Vellore (M)	174,247	168	0.10
6.	Ambattur (T.S.)	115,901	268	0.23
7.	Cuddalore (M)	127,625	388	0.30
8.	Salem (M)	361,394	253	0.07
9.	Erode (M)	142,252	68	0.05
10.	Coimbatore (M)	704,514	282	0.04
11.	Tiruppur (M)	165,223	18	0.01
12.	Valparai (T.S.)	115,452	660	0.57
13.	Madurai (M.C.)	820,891	2,546	0.31
14.	Dindigul (M)	164,103	604	0.37
15.	Tiruchchirappalli (M)	362,045	1,686	0.47
16.	Thanjavur (M)	184,015	393	0.21
17.	Kumbakonam (M)	132,832	107	0.08
18.	Rajapalaiyam (M)	101,640	237	0.23
19.	Tuticorin (M)	192,949	267	0·14
20.	Tirunelveli (M)	128,850	238	0.18
21.	Nagercoil (M)	171,648	375	0.22

M.C.—Municipal Corporation; M—Muncipality; T.S.—Township.

TABLE 8.5

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF SCHEDULED TRIBE POPULATION OF TAMIL NADU AMONG THE DISTRICTS

Sl.No.	State/District	Scheduled Tribe Population	Percentage to total Scheduled Tribe population in the State
1	2	3	4
	TAMIL NADU	520,226	100.00
1.	Madras	5,373	1.03
2.	Chengalpattu	46,050	8.85
3.	North Arcot	93,690	18.01
4.	South Arcot	53,775	10.34
5.	Dharmapuri	46,074	8.86
6.	Salem	122,444	23.54
7.	Periyar	15,191	2.92
8.	Coimbatore	22,358	4.30
9.	Nilgiri	20,874	4.01
10.	Madurai	13,646	2.62
11.	Tiruchchirappalli	48,294	9.28
12.	Thanjavur	6,012	1.16
13.	Pudukkottai	1,516	0.29
14.	Ramanathapuram	6,617	1.27
15.	Tirunelveli	11,954	2.30
16.	Kanniyakumari	6,358	1.22

TABLE 8.6

LITERATES AMONG SCHEDULED CASTES IN THE STATE AND DISTRICTS

State/District	Total Rural Urban	Scheduled Caste population	No. of Literates	Percentage of literates in 1981	Percentage of literates in 1971*
1	2	3	4	5	6
TAMIL NADU . . .	T	8,881,295	2,635,149	29.67	21.82
	R	7,090,664	1,837,548	25.92	19.24
	U	1,790,631	797,601	44.54	34.17
1. Madras . . .	T	437,916	227,602	51.97	43.94
	R	..	..	..	..
	U	437,916	227,602	51.97	43.94
2. Chengalpattu . .	T	947,789	305,790	32.26	24.09
	R	732,890	202,064	27.57	20.60
	U	214,899	103,726	48.27	38.15
3. North Arcot . .	T	877,804	286,906	32.68	25.14
	R	741,758	224,452	30.26	22.90
	U	136,046	62,454	45.91	39.56
4. South Arcot . .	T	1,091,353	235,621	21.59	16.74
	R	1,011,447	205,243	20.29	16.09
	U	79,906	30,378	38.02	26.61
5. Dharmapuri . .	T	276,714	57,989	20.96	13.96
	R	260,948	52,228	20.01	13.19
	U	15,766	5,761	36.54	28.91
6. Salem . . .	T	560,267	151,846	27.10	17.48
	R	463,298	114,267	24.66	15.58
	U	96,969	37,579	38.75	27.78
7. Periyar . . .	T	338,477	58,002	17.14	..
	R	297,057	43,110	14.51	..
	U	41,420	14,892	35.95	..
8. Coimbatore . .	T	496,855	119,820	24.12	14.35
	R	297,166	41,438	13.94	9.70
	U	199,689	78,382	39.25	26.46

TABLE 8.6

LITERATES AMONG SCHEDULED CASTES IN THE STATE AND DISTRICTS

State/District	Total Rural Urban	Scheduled Caste population	No. of Literates	Percentage of literates in 1981	Percentage of literates in 1971*
1	2	3	4	5	6
9. Nilgiri . . .	T	145,174	66,968	46.13	32.10
	R	70,889	29,034	40.96	28.04
	U	74,285	37,934	51.07	36.02
10. Madurai . . .	T	695,242	178,387	25.66	21.00
	R	579,754	133,889	23.09	19.49
	U	115,488	44,498	38.53	29.58
11. Tiruchchirappalli. .	T	672,697	210,416	31.28	23.52
	R	583,888	168,941	28.93	21.85
	U	88,809	41,475	46.70	37.73
12. Thanjavur . . .	T	943,343	289,539	30.69	20.65
	R	869,739	261,495	30.07	20.23
	U	73,604	28,044	38.10	25.78
13. Pudukkottai . .	T	191,732	52,915	27.60	..
	R	178,907	47,245	26.41	..
	U	12,825	5,670	44.21	..
14. Ramanathapuram .	T	556,291	157,575	28.33	21.38
	R	483,821	130,913	27.06	20.61
	U	72,470	26,662	36.79	27.24
15. Tirunelveli . .	T	589,468	201,181	34.13	25.99
	R	467,804	154,184	32.96	25.00
	U	121,664	46,997	38.63	30.13
16. Kanniyakumari . .	T	60,173	34,592	57.49	50.33
	R	51,298	29,045	56.62	50.96
	U	8,875	5,547	62.50	46.52

*Due to non-availability of data, percentages for Periyar and Pudukkotta districts, newly formed after the 1971 Census, are not given for 1971 separately. Juris dictional changes after 1971 have not been taken into account in respect of Madras, Chengalpattu, Coimbatore, Tiruchchirappalli and Thanjavur districts.

TABLE 8.7

LITERATES AMONG SCHEDULED TRIBES IN THE STATE AND DISTRICTS

State/District	Total Rural Urban	Scheduled Tribe population	No. of literates	Percentage of literates in 1981	Percentage of literates in 1971*
1	2	3	4	5	6
TAMIL NADU . . .	T	520,226	106,421	20.46	9.02
	R	469,810	89,175	18,98	8.50
	U	50,416	17,246	34.21	17.94
1. Madras . . .	T	5,373	2,854	53.12	46.23
	R	..	..	..	..
	U	5,373	2,854	53.12	46.23
2. Chengalpattu . .	T	46,050	6,727	14.61	5.05
	R	36,874	4,656	12.63	4.31
	U	9,176	2,071	22.57	9.52
3. North Arcot . .	T	93,690	10,987	11.73	6.33
	R	89,557	9,770	10.91	6.29
	U	4,133	1,217	29.45	8.55
4. South Arcot . .	T	53,775	6,746	12.54	4.37
	R	51,960	6,036	11.62	4.28
	U	1,815	710	39.12	9.16
5. Dharmapuri . .	T	46,074	6,839	14.84	7.40
	R	44,986	6,294	13.99	6.52
	U	1,088	545	50.09	50.42
6. Salem . . .	T	122,444	22,039	18.00	10.16
	R	121,193	21,302	17.58	10.05
	U	1,251	737	58.91	42.24
7. Periyar . . .	T	15,191	3,304	21.75	..
	R	14,193	2,972	20.94	..
	U	998	332	33.27	..
8. Coimbatore . .	T	22,358	3,113	13.92	7.37
	R	20,487	2,549	12.44	6.83
	U	1,871	564	30.14	21.39

TABLE 8.7

LITERATES AMONG SCHEDULED TRIBES IN THE STATE AND DISTRICTS

State/District	Total Rural Urban	Scheduled Tribe population	No. of literates	Percentage of literates in 1981	Percentage of literates in 1971*
1	2	3	4	5	6
9. Nilgiri . . .	T	20,874	4,274	20.48	15.24
	R	14,433	3,199	22.16	16.96
	U	6,441	1,075	16.69	11.25
10. Madurai . . .	T	13,646	4,473	32.78	16.25
	R	8,778	2,853	32.50	13.75
	U	4,868	1,620	33.28	29.29
11. Tiruchchirappalli .	T	48,294	22,204	45.98	14.17
	R	44,627	20,067	44.97	14.05
	U	3,667	2,137	58.28	37.04
12. Thanjavur . . .	T	6,012	1,798	29.91	14.84
	R	2,653	632	23.82	8.18
	U	3,359	1,166	34.71	30.69
13. Pudukkottai . .	T	1,516	447	29.49	..
	R	1,217	312	25.64	..
	U	299	135	45.15	..
14. Ramanathapuram .	T	6,617	2,850	43.07	22.16
	R	4,189	2,083	49.73	17.68
	U	2,428	767	31.59	26.06
15. Tirunelveli . . .	T	11,954	5,670	47.43	25.59
	R	8,801	4,650	52.83	25.75
	U	3,153	1,020	32.35	25.43
16. Kanniyakumari . .	T	6,358	2,096	32.97	15.51
	R	5,862	1,800	30.71	14.71
	U	496	296	59.68	52.46

*Due to non-availability of data, percentages for Periyar and Pudukkottai districts, newly formed after the 1971 census, are not given for 1971 separately. Jurisdictional changes after 1971 have not been taken into account in respect of Madras, Chengalpattu, Coimbatore, Tiruchchirappalli and Thanjavur districts.

CHAPTER IX

HOW MANY OF US HAVE WORK ?

One of the important tasks of the population census is to find out how every individual spends his time. Based on one's activity thus ascertained, the population of a country is generally divided into those who are economically active and those who are not. Those who are classified as economically active are generally termed as workers and the others who are not economically active are considered as non-workers. The census enumerator collects a variety of answers on the type of work and other activities of each individual. He comes across agricultural labourers, traders industrial workers, accountants, beggars, retired persons, miners, housewives, students, doctors and a host of persons engaged in several other activities. When we systematically compile the data thus collected, we get a complete picture of the distribution of the population among the different types or activities and this in turn reveals the economic situation of the country.

'Workers' definition

It is essential to understand clearly the terms 'workers', 'non-workers' and also 'marginal workers' as used in the latest 1981 census, since these terms have all been used in a special sense in this census. Economically active people are known to be 'workers'. But, what is meant by the term 'economically active'? The simplest explanation is that the economically active population or the workers, include all those who produce economic goods or perform economic services. Thus, worker includes farmers, factory workers, shop keepers, government servants and army personnel and non-workers cover persons like housewives, students and pensioners. The definition of 'work' has been undergoing changes in the censuses. Such changes have been made with the objective of both simplifying the concept and enabling better understanding and also easy collection of more dependable data pertaining to economic activity, much needed in the present day planning processes.

In census, the word 'work' itself is used in a special sense. Obviously, a housewife works in running her home, a student works when he studies. But, for our purpose, although such persons have a very useful role to play in society, they are, by definition, considered as non-workers. It is only those who are involved in the economic process of production of goods or rendering of services are considered as workers.

In the 1981 census, a uniform reference period of one year preceding the date of census enumeration was prescribed for 'work'. Those who were engaged in economically productive activity for the major part of the previous one year (i.e for 183 days or in other words for six months or more) were regarded as 'main workers'. Those whose work amounted to less than six months were classified as 'marginal workers' and the rest who did not 'work' as per this definition were treated as 'non-workers'.

Distinction of a main worker and marginal worker from non-worker

How are the workers distinguished from non-workers? A person's main activity related to how he or she was engaged for most part of the time. The main activity of a farmer, for example, is cultivation, of a merchant or a petty trader he selling of goods, of a carpenter the making of wooden articles, of a student studying and of a child or an old man being dependent on others. Everyone thus has a main activity in which most of his time is spent. Depending on what the main activity is and how long in the reference period of one year he is engaged in it, a person is determined as a 'main worker'. 'marginal worker' or 'non-worker'. 'Work' thus is defined as "participation in economically productive activity. Such participation may be physical or mental in nature. Work involves not only actual work, but also effective supervision and direction of work". It must be very obvious from this that a person whose main activity does not help in the production of economic goods or services is a 'non-worker'.

There may be some persons engaged in 'economically productive work' in spare time. For example, a housewife may be stitching clothes for others for some return or preparing and selling pickles or fruit juices, jams, etc., in her spare time. Similarly, a full-time student may be working also in a shop or firm on a part-time job or earning some money through coaching some junior students. From the Census angle, the housewife and the student in the above cases do become workers, but major part of their time is spent in non-economic activities. They are therefore, treated as 'marginal workers', as their activities do not permit them to be classified as main workers.

Questions asked in 1981 Census

Everyone was asked whether he/she worked any time last year and if yes, whether it was for the major part of the year or not. Based on the answers when a person was considered as worker, he was classified as a cultivator, agricultural labourer,

worker in household industry or other worker (engaged in forestry, fishing, mining, manufacturing industry, trade, transport, services, etc.). When a person returned himself as a non-worker, the enumerator asked him or her to state whether he or she was engaged in household duties, was a student, retired person or rentier, a dependent, a beggar or vagrant, inmate of a charitable or penal institution or other non-worker such as an unemployed person. Questions 14A, 14B, 15A and 15B of the Individual Slip, 1981 elicited details on the economic activity. Details about some secondary work engaged in by some individuals who are also 'main-workers' and about marginal work, if any, of the 'non-workers' were also ascertained through question 15-B. A question on 'seeking/available for work' among non-workers and marginal workers was also asked for the first time during 1981 Census.

Changes in the 'work' concept

There have been changes in the economic questions since the 1961 Census. The 'work' concept of 1961 and 1971 Censuses, as opposed to the 'income' or 'economic independence' concept of the earlier censuses is adopted for 1981 census also. But, the criterion for classification of persons as workers has changed. In 1961, a person was qualified to be a 'worker' if he had worked regularly during the last season or if he had worked at least for a day in regular (non-seasonal) work during the preceding fortnight. At the 1971 Census, a person was treated as a worker only if he spent his time mainly in work or if he worked at least for a day in regular (non-seasonal work during the preceding week. The two-fold classification of the population as workers and non-workers both in the 1961 and 1971 Censuses has been replaced in 1981 by the three-fold classification of main workers, marginal workers and non-workers. Such a division is expected to partially permit comparability of 1981 Census economic data with that of 1971 and 1961. The main workers of 1981 Census can be expected to correspond to the workers of 1971 and the main and marginal workers of 1981 together to correspond to the workers of 1961. Experts felt that the 1961 definition of work was a bit liberal and it, therefore resulted in exaggerated work participation rates.

Categories of workers and non-workers

It is well known that the types of jobs that people do are innumerable. During the census enumeration, in regard to workers, fuller details like description of work, nature of industry, trade or service and class of worker have all been ascertained. The workers have been broadly categorised under four categories at the time of enumeration

and data have been gathered separately in regard to (i) cultivators, (ii) agricultural labourers, (iii) those engaged in household industry, and (iv) other workers. To identify workers engaged in the different activities of manufacturing, processing, servicing, repairs, trade services, transport, mining, quarrying, forestry, electricity, etc., detailed particulars have been gathered about each worker like the nature of industry, trade, service, name of Establishment, etc., as also full description of his work. With the help of such details, each worker was separately coded under 'industrial' and 'occupational' code systems (NIC and NCO) and data are presented for each industrial and occupationl group in the detailed Economic Tables (Part III of the 1981 Census Publications). The nine-fold broad industrial categories for which data have also been presented in these tables are: I—Cultivators, II—Agricultural Labourers, III—Livestock, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting and Plantations, Orchards and allied activities, IV—Mining and Quarrying, V—Manufacturing, Processing, Servicing and Repairs—(a) Household Industry (b) Other than Household Industry, VI—Construction, VII—Trade and Commerce, VIII—Transport, Storage and Communications and IX—Other services.

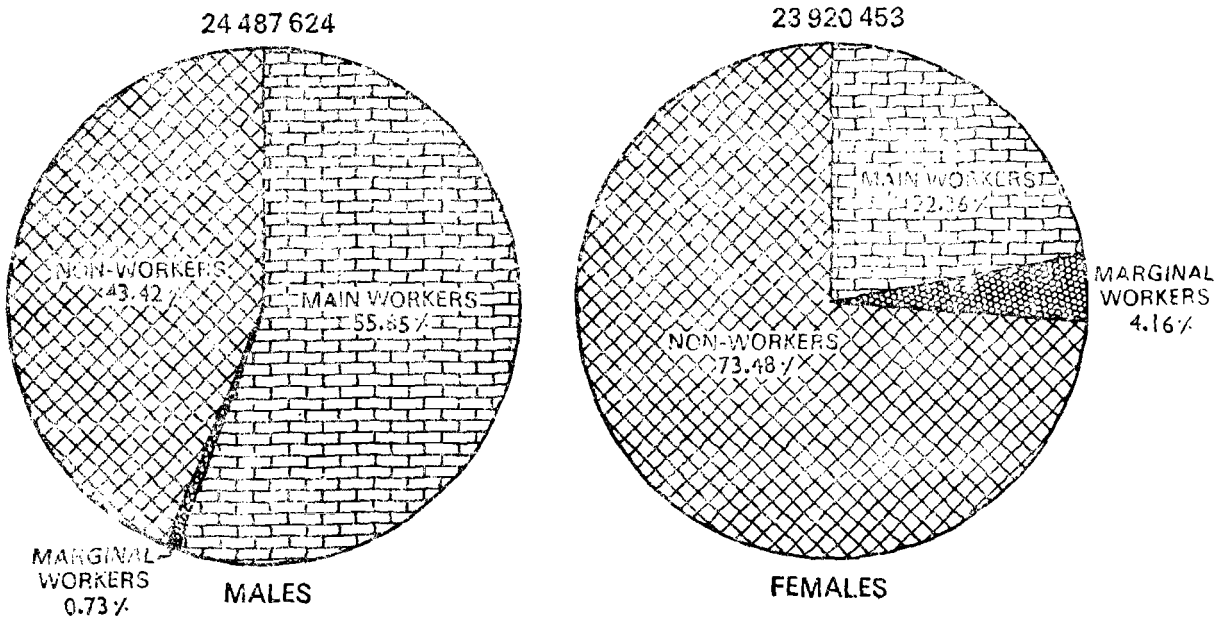
Non-workers have been grouped under seven broad heads: (i) Those engaged in household duties (ii) Full-time students, (iii) Retired persons, rentiers and persons of independent means, (iv) Dependents and Infants, (v) Beggars, vagrants, etc., (vi) Inmates of penal, mental and charitable institutions and (vii) Others.

Work participation rates in Tamil Nadu in 1981

Of the population of 48,408,077 in the State as per 1981 Census, the number of individuals who have been returned as main workers is 19,026,393. While the number of marginal workers is 1,172,397, non-workers constitute 28,209,287. The proportion of main workers to the population works to 39.31 per cent while the marginal workers form another 2.42 per cent. The rest of the population, viz., 58.27 per cent are non-workers.

Roughly 42 per cent of the State's population (which includes the marginal workers of 2.42 per cent) could be considered to constitute the working population of Tamil Nadu. This means that about two out of every five individuals are workers. In the last census of 1971, workers formed a smaller ratio of 35.78 per cent, while in the earlier 1961 Census, the ratio was 45.57 per cent. We have to remember that the conceptual changes have also been responsible for these variations in the worker ratios.

MAIN WORKERS, MARGINAL WORKERS AND NON-WORKERS BY SEX, 1981



Economically active population are more among the males than among the females. Our society is still in the traditional way with males dominating as bread-winners and the females engaged generally in house-keeping work. This situation more or less continues even now, in spite of the modern trend of more females also, particularly the educated ones, getting employed as a way of supplementing the family income. As per 1981 Census, workers constitute 55.85 per cent among males as against 22.36 per cent among females. Workers are found to constitute higher proportion in the rural areas (43.20 per cent) than in urban areas (31.37 per cent). As compared to 1971, there has been a marginal fall in the percentage of main workers among males in 1981 (from 56.02 in 1971 to 55.85 per cent in 1981). In the case of females, the worker ratio was 15.09 in 1971 and this has gone up substantially to 22.36 per cent in 1981. Female workers numbered 30.75 lakhs in the State in 1971 and have sizably increased to 53.49 lakhs in 1981 (by 74.0 per cent).

Participation Rate in India

The work participation rate is lesser in India (33.45 per cent) as compared to Tamil Nadu (39.31 per cent). This rate represents main workers only and excludes marginal workers. Nearly one-third of the population of the country could be termed as workers as observed from this ratio. Not much change is seen in this ratio in the last years. During 1971, the worker ratio in India was 33.06 per cent.

The overall work participation rate for males has declined by one point in 1981 to 51.62 per cent from 52.61 per cent in 1971. The work participation rate for females, however, has increased from 12.06 per cent in 1971 to 13.99 per cent in 1981. The worker ratio is generally higher in the rural areas (34.8 per cent) than in the urban areas (29.2 per cent). A large majority of the nearly 223 million main workers in the country are males and they constitute almost 80 per cent of the total working population. Female main workers constitue just 20 per cent of the total main workers as per 1981. The proportion of females among the working population was lesser in 1971 (17.6 per cent) and the rise of this ratio, though marginal, in 1981, no doubt, points to increasingly greater participation of women among the economically active population.

The extent of participation in work is seen to be much higher in economically advanced countries than in the under-developed and developing countries. The proportion of working

population in such developed countries is said to range between 40-50 per cent. In the developing countries including India, more skills are being acquired by workers and expansion of job opportunities is also taking place simultaneously. The ratio of economically active persons among total population varies from country to country and even from place to place within a country. Apart from the demographic phenomenon of age distribution and the availability of manpower in the working ages, worker ratio in a given population depends on factors like natural resources, institutions with capacity to give greater skills and the availability and creation of job opportunities. Further, it is also seen that higher percentage of economically active population depends to a certain extent on the larger participation of women in the working force. Generally, we observe that in countries with a lower percentage of workers, there is a lesser contribution of women to the working population. Lower participation rates of females are due, generally, to lower levels of literacy, lower participation of technically qualified women in work and social taboo preventing women from taking up certain types of occupations. In economically advanced countries with higher per capita income like United Kingdom, United States, Japan, Russia, etc., we find that the percentage of workers among females is much higher, as compared to economically poor and developing countries, including India.

Workers in States and Union Territories

The ratio of main workers to population as per 1981 Census is observed to be highest in some of the north-eastern States and Union Territories than in the rest of the country. In Nagaland, the ratio is 47.5 per cent, in Sikkim it is 46.6 per cent and in Arunachal Pradesh, the ratio is the highest, viz., 49.6 per cent. In Manipur, Meghalaya and Mizoram too (all in the eastern and north-eastern part of India), the ratios are comparatively high, viz., 40.4 per cent, 43.4 per cent and 41.7 per cent respectively. Very low worker ratios are observed in the small Union Territory of Lakshadweep (19.8 per cent) and in the State of Kerala (26.7 per cent). In the southern region, of the four States, Andhra Pradesh (42.3 per cent) has the highest worker participation rate and Kerala the lowest.

Workers' ratio in rural and urban areas

The ratio of workers to popuation is higher in the rural areas than in the urban areas. For India, the ratio of main workers is 34.8 per cent in the rural areas, while it is only 29.2% in the urban

areas. In Tamil Nadu, main workers constitute 43.20 per cent in rural areas and 31.37 per cent in the urban areas. Most of the workers in the rural areas are dependent on land for their livelihood and are engaged in activities connected with agriculture, while in the urban areas, almost all the workers are in non-agricultural jobs like manufacturing, industry, trade, transport and services.

Workers in the districts

The ratio of main workers among the population as also among males and females along with those of marginal and non-workers are given for each district of the State in Table 9.2. Periyar district reveals the highest ratio of main workers among the districts of the State, with 49.68 per cent. If the marginal workers of 2.10 per cent is also taken into account, this district is the only one to have about half of its population engaged in economically productive work. Salem and Coimbatore districts are the two others with comparatively higher ratio of main workers, viz., 45.53 per cent and 44.01 per cent respectively. The worker ratios are higher than the State average of 39.31 per cent in eight out of the 16 districts. The lowest worker participation rate of 27.62 per cent is recorded in the southern most Kanniyakumari district, while the dense and fully urban district of Madras (i.e., Madras City) has the second lowest ratio of 27.90 per cent. No other district of the State, barring these two, has registered a lower worker ratio of less than 30 per cent.

Among males, a larger ratio are workers while it is not so among the females. Of all the districts it is in Periyar we find the highest percentage of the male population as main workers. (66.05 per cent). Comparatively low percentages of main workers, i.e., of less than half of the male population, is seen in Madras (47.92 per cent), Nilgiri (49.76 per cent) and Kanniyakumari (47.43 per cent) districts. Workers among females constitute a low ratio in almost all the districts. The highest ratio of workers among females is itself only 32.55 per cent in Periyar district and very low ratios of just 6.47 per cent and 7.50 per cent are observed in Madras and Kanniyakumari districts respectively.

The workers are in greater proportion generally in the rural areas than in the urban areas. In the urban areas like cities and towns, we all know that there are greater employment opportunities because of the existence of factories, commercial firms, government offices, etc. But, there are actually more men

and women seeking employment than the actual number of jobs that exist in the urban centres. We know that more people in working age-groups migrate towards the urban centres, for getting suitable jobs and earn a good income and many among them continue to be unemployed and are in the process of searching for jobs. This position is reflected in the proportion of main workers being higher in the rural areas of the State (43.20 per cent) than in the urban areas (31.37 per cent). Wide differentials in the rural-urban work participation rates are observed in all the districts, Kanniyakumari being the lone exception to this general trend.

Workers in the various categories

Data on the distribution of workers in the nine industrial categories for the State as a whole and the rural-urban areas separately are given in Table 9.3. One could see from this that a large majority of the main workers in Tamil Nadu are engaged in agricultural activities (nearly 61 per cent of all main workers). Such workers cover cultivators and agricultural labourers. For India, similar ratio is higher, viz., 66.52 per cent. Manufacturing, Processing, Servicing and Repairs is the next prominent category, absorbing 15.22 per cent of the State's main workers. This ratio includes 4.72 per cent engaged in household industry only. Trade and Commerce (8.45 per cent) and other Services (7.75 per cent) are the other important categories with larger proportion of the total workers. There are distinct differences in the participation rates under the nine industrial categories between the rural and urban areas. In the rural areas, one observes that nearly 78.5 per cent of the main workers are engaged as cultivators and agricultural labourers. In the urban sector, on the other hand, 33.3 per cent of workers are connected with manufacturing, processing, etc. (both in factories and household industries sector) in their jobs. This is followed by 21.8 per cent of urban workers in trade and commerce, 17.4 per cent in 'other services' and 8.20 per cent under transport, storage and communications. That land is the chief source of livelihood to a very large majority of workers in the rural areas proves the dominant agrarian characteristic of the village economy, prevailing in our State. Trade and Commerce, manufacturing industries and services provide the chief source of income for good many urban workers i.e., those who are in the cities and towns.

Workers are generally brought under the three broad sectors, viz., Primary, Secondary and Tertiary. While the primary sector includes cultivators, agricultural labourers, workers in

livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations, orchards and allied activities as also mining and quarrying, the secondary sector covers workers engaged in the manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairing, both by household industries and the non-household industries, including the factory sector and construction workers. The tertiary sector consists of the rest of the categories of workers, viz., those engaged in trade and commerce, transport, storage and communications and other services. The ratio of workers in the three sectors in Tamil Nadu both during 1971 and 1981 are given below for a comparative review.

Total Rural Urban	1971/1981	Percentage of workers under		
		Primary Sector	Secondary Sector	Teritary Sector
1	2	3	4	5
Total	1971	64.79	14.97	20.24
Rural	1971	81.31	8.72	9.97
Urban	1971	16.70	33.16	50.14
Total	1981	63.88	17.01	19.11
Rural	1981	81.22	9.75	9.03
Urban	1981	15.28	37.35	47.37

Workers engaged in the primary sector remain by and large at the same ratio both in 1971 and 1981 Censuses. While the secondary sector, i.e., manufacturing, etc. workers, including construction, has registered a good increase in 1981, particularly in the urban areas, engagement of workers in the tertiary sector has declined in ratio during the decade Tertiary sector absorbs the large majority of the urban workers and it is closely followed by the secondary sector.

Economic activity among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

It is observed that the ratio of economically active population is comparatively higher among the Scheduled Castes as also Scheduled Tribes than among the entire State's population. As against the ratio of 39.31 per cent of main workers among the State's population, we notice that about 46 per cent among the Scheduled Caste population and nearly 48 per cent among the Scheduled Tribe population are economically active. If we take the marginal workers too for consideration, the worker proportion even exceeds fifty per cent in the case of Scheduled

Tribes. Such a trend in the work participation rates among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was noticed in the last 1971 Census also.

Work participation rates among the Scheduled Castes are comparatively higher and exceeds 50 per cent in the three districts of Periyar, Coimbatore and Thanjavur and it is below 50 per cent in the rest of the districts of the State. In the case of Scheduled Tribes, main workers constitute comparatively higher proportions in the districts of South Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore and Nilgiri where they exceed 50 per cent of the respective Scheduled Tribe population.

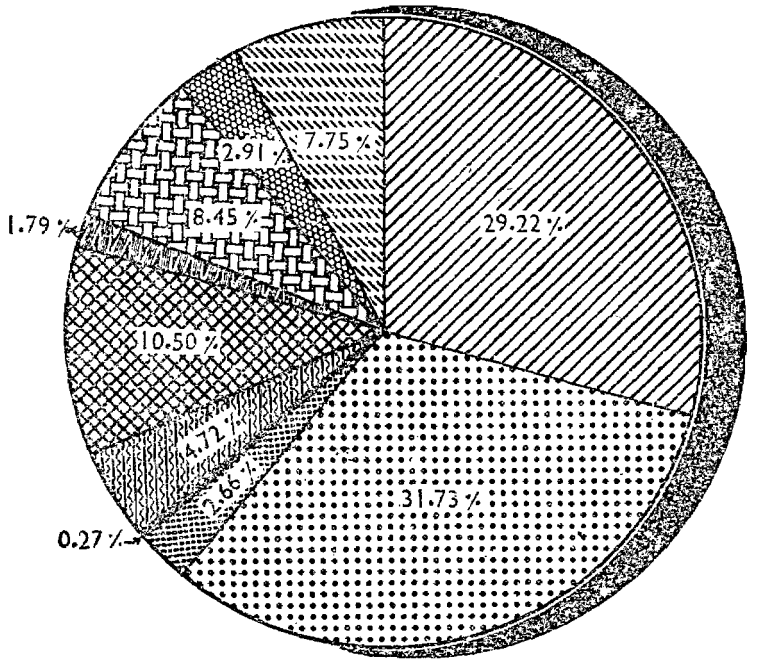
It is also seen from 1981 Census data that nearly 81 per cent of the main workers both among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are depending on agricultural activities for their livelihood. Of the 81 per cent of workers in agriculture among the Scheduled Castes, 63 per cent represent agricultural labourers. i.e., those working in land owned or cultivated by others, for wages only. Among the Scheduled Tribes, however, we find that only 34 per cent (out of the total of 81 per cent of the workers engaged in agricultural activities) represent labourers and the rest viz., 47 per cent constitute cultivators. Apparently, fewer among the Scheduled Caste workers work in own lands (or lands held from Government or private persons or institutions), as compared to similar workers among the Scheduled Tribes (vide Table 9.5). A comparatively higher ratio of Scheduled Tribe workers cultivate in own lands or lands held by them on lease, etc. rather than as labourers in lands owned by others.

Workers in the nine industrial categories in the districts

The percentage distribution of the main workers among the nine industrial categories in the various districts of the State (vide Table 9.6) brings to light some distinctive characteristics Though predominance of workers in the agricultural activities (categories I and II together) is a common feature in all except four districts, the highest dependence on agriculture of over 75 per cent is observed in the districts of Dharmapuri (83.07 per cent), South Arcot (77.39 per cent) and Pudukkottai (76.57 per cent) and these are generally considered as State's backward districts with a high dependence on agriculture for livelihood.

The characteristic of Madras district, which is a metropolitan centre and the hub of State's industrial and commercial progress, is well known to everybody. This is very well reflected in the distribution of workers too. While 30 per cent of the main workers in Madras City are engaged in manufacturing.

MAIN WORKERS BY INDUSTRIAL CATEGORIES
1981



INDUSTRIAL CATEGORY OF WORKERS

I CULTIVATORS

II AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

III LIVESTOCK, FORESTRY, FISHING ETC

IV MINING & QUARRYING

V (a) HOUSEHOLD INDUSTRY

V (b) NON-HOUSEHOLD INDUSTRY

VI CONSTRUCTION

VII TRADE AND COMMERCE

VIII TRANSPORT, STORAGE, AND COMMUNICATIONS

IX OTHER SERVICES

processing etc. activities (i.e. category V, of which 28.24 percent represent factory sector), 25.73 percent of workers are engaged in trade and commerce and another 25.70 per cent are in 'other services'. While 11.58 per cent of the workers of Madras are engaged in transport, storage and communication, 5.65 per cent are in 'construction' work. Coimbatore district is also an important industrial and commercial centre and hence we find here too, a high proportion of workers in category V, i.e., manufacturing activities (23.91 per cent) with a second high level of 10.16 per cent in trade and commerce. The hilly Nilgiri district is known for its plantations, vegetable and fruit growing and it reveals a high ratio of its workers (58.48 per cent) in Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, Plantations, orchards and allied activities (Category III). It has nearly 10 per cent of its workers in 'Other Services' and has just 9 per cent in cultivation and agricultural labour. The small Kanniyakumari district, which has a large number of persons engaged in fishing activities, has a high percentage (9.23 per cent) of workers in the IIIrd category. A good proportion (11.48 per cent) is also seen in this district under 'Other Services'. Tirunelveli, well known for its palm-leaf products, handlooms, etc., has a high 10.85 per cent under Household Industry [V(a)] and similarly, Salem district, famous for its handloom textile goods, has a high 8.21 per cent of its workers under this category. Seven out of the State's 16 districts have a good portion of its work force (exceeding ten per cent) under the factory sector of the 'manufacturing' industry and this amply reveals the better distribution of the industrial infrastructure in the different regions of the State. South Arcot district, which has the big Neyveli lignite mining unit, is the only district with nearly one per cent of its main workers under 'Mining and Quarrying' category, viz., IV, and the rest of the districts have very low ratios under this category.

Main workers having secondary work

There are many individuals who, though engaged in a main job, are also engaged for short durations in some other economically productive activity to supplement their income. Such workers are said to be having secondary work. In Census, we have gathered data about such workers with secondary work. Examples of such workers are, an accountant in a company giving tuition to students in the evenings or a factory worker engaged in toy-making at home as household industry, on a part time basis. In Tamil Nadu, there are 1.47 million people, who, besides their main work, are engaged in secondary work. Such individuals constitute 7.71 per cent of the total main workers

in the State (of 19.03 million). Most of these workers (1.15 million) are males and only 0.32 million are females. The ratio of main workers having secondary work is the highest (20.80 per cent) in Pudukkottai district. In four other districts of the State, viz., Ramanathapuram, South Arcot, Dharmapuri and Tiruchchirappalli, the percentage of main workers with secondary work is comparatively high and it ranges between 10 to 15 per cent. The lowest ratio of less than one per cent of main workers having secondary work is observed in Madras (0.11 per cent) district and Nilgiri district (0.84 per cent). Among the male main workers, 8.39 per cent have secondary work. Among female main workers, the ratio is somewhat less, being 5.95 per cent. Agricultural labourers constitute more than two-thirds of the main workers with secondary work (67.88 per cent) and another 22.10 per cent are cultivators. Thus, nearly 90 per cent of the workers with secondary work are engaged in 'agricultural operations' Just four per cent of the main workers with secondary work are engaged in 'manufacturing, processing', etc., (both in household and non-household industry), while 2.75 per cent are in 'trade and commerce' and 1.09 per cent in 'Other Services'.

Activities of marginal workers

Of the 1.17 million marginal workers in the State, 62.30 per cent are engaged as agricultural workers and 21.79 per cent are cultivators. As we have seen earlier, these marginal workers do not have any main work and have contributed to economically productive work for some time only, i.e., for less than half the period in the previous one year. Nearly nine per cent of the marginal workers are engaged in 'manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairs' both in the factory sector and in household industry. 'Trade and Commerce' absorbs 2.78 per cent of the marginal workers, while 1.48 per cent is accounted for by 'other services'. For main workers with secondary work and also marginal workers, activities connected with agricultural operations seem to be the dominant economic activity, as seen from the above data.

Workers by age-groups and sex

The ratio of workers in the different age-groups and for males and females is given in Table 9.7. Work participation rates are higher in all the age-groups in 1981, as compared with 1971, except in 60+ ages, where it has declined in 1981. It is significant that in spite of the statutes and propaganda on the evils of engaging child labour, there is an increase in the ratio of workers in the younger age-group of 0-14, from 4.58 per cent in 1971

to 5.14 per cent in 1981. The ratio of workers in this age group of 0-14 has declined in 1981, if we consider the male workers alone. In the case of female workers, we disappointingly observe that it has increased sizably to 4.52 per cent in 1981 from 2.92 per cent in 1971. The worker ratio increases with every age group from 15-19 and reaches a high 66.97 per cent in 30-39 age group and to the maximum of 69.37 per cent in 40-49 age-group. In 50-59, there is a decline to 63.60 per cent in view of the retirements from work that generally take place in these higher ages. One notices a sizable increase in the proportion of workers among females in 1981 in the different age groups, as against those in 1971. This can be considered as an encouraging trend.

Working age-group

Generally, 15-59 age group is believed to be the working age-group and the population of these ages constitute the work force. People belonging to the younger and older ages are considered to be dependent on these workers for their livelihood. When higher education is given greater importance as in the cities and other urban areas, the work force could dwindle by a small margin, as persons of 15-20 may also be full-time students in such urban areas. As per 1981 Census, the work force in Tamil Nadu, i.e., population of 15-59 ages is 28.35 million and of this, only 16.93 million, constituting about 59.7 per cent, are workers. Nearly, 40 per cent or two-fifth of the working-age population are not economically active in the State.

Of the total main workers of the State (19.03 million) in 1981, 89 per cent fall in the working ages, 15-59. While 4.58 per cent of the workers are aged 0-14, the rest, viz., 6.42 per cent are in older ages of 60 years and over. Workers of 15-59 ages constitute the major chunk of 92.37 per cent of all workers in the urban areas. Such ratio in the rural areas is 87.79 per cent. In the urban areas, workers of 0-14 age group from only 2.91 per cent of all workers as against the higher ratio of 5.18 per cent in the rural areas. Obviously, more of young persons below 14 years are engaged in work in the villages than in the urban areas. More of aged people are also found working in the rural areas than in the urban areas. This is seen from the ratio of 7.03 per cent of rural main workers with ages 60 years and above, as against only 4.72 per cent of the urban main workers in this higher age group.

Workers by educational level

It would be of interest to know that nearly half of the main workers in Tamil Nadu are illiterate and another 38 per cent of them are literates upto primary and middle level, but not upto Higher Secondary or school leaving level. Hardly 11 per cent of the total State's workers possess qualifications of Matriculation/Higher Secondary, including technical and non-technical diplomas or certificates not equal to degree. Just 2.07 per cent of the main workers are qualified to the level of 'graduate and above'. Naturally, we observe that a good proportion of workers in rural areas of State are illiterate (58.03 per cent), as compared to the urban areas (24.69 per cent). In the Cities and towns, 'graduates and above' constitute a higher ratio of 6.20 per cent of workers, as against a very small ratio of 0.59 per cent in the rural areas. Nearly, one-fourth of the workers in the urban areas are qualified upto Matriculation and Higher Secondary level but below degree, while similar ratio for the rural areas is just 6 per cent. It is obvious from this that there is abundant scope for improvement in the levels of education, particularly upto some basic level, among the vast majority of workers in Tamil Nadu.

Activities of non-workers

When we consider all the non-workers of the State and observe their activities as reported in the census, we notice that nearly 37 per cent of them are infants and dependents, 28 per cent are full-time students and 30 per cent are engaged in household duties. The retired, rentiers and persons of independent means constitute 2.5 per cent and the residuary category of other non-workers form 2.3 per cent. The unemployed who are in search of employment opportunities are all included in this residuary category of non-workers. When we view the male non-workers alone, a substantial ratio of them (46.09 per cent) are found to be 'dependents and infants' and another good segment (of 43.69 per cent) are full-time students, while 4.76 per cent are other non-workers. Among female non-workers, 47.79 per cent are engaged fully in household duties only, while 31.39 per cent are dependents and infants and a smaller ratio of just 18.19 per cent are full-time students. A large majority of the State's women, as elsewhere in India, are found to be chiefly engaged in household chores as 'housewives'. Many of the female students also discontinue their studies due to prevalent customs

of early marriage and are inducted into household duties and because of such fall out at various levels of education at school/ college stages, a low ratio of women non-workers as "full-time students" is also observed. While 8.4 million female non-workers are engaged in household duties in the State, we find 1.61 lakhs of male non-workers too reported as engaged in household duties. The total female non-workers in Tamil Nadu (i.e., other than workers) number 17.58 million, as against 10.63 million among the males.

TABLE 9.1

WORK PARTICIPATION RATES IN 1961, 1971 AND 1981 FOR THE STATE

Details	Year	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5
1. Percentage of total workers to total Population	1961	45.57	49.63	34.41
	1971	35.78	38.19	30.23
	1981	39.31	43.20	31.37
2. Percentage of male workers to male population	1961	59.74	62.19	53.16
	1971	56.02	58.55	50.29
	1981	55.85	58.35	50.84
3. Percentage of female workers to female population	1961	31.28	37.11	14.95
	1971	15.09	17.62	9.14
	1981	22.36	27.85	11.01

TABLE 9.2

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION OF EACH SEX INTO WORKERS, MARGINAL WORKERS AND NON-WORKERS IN STATE DISTRICTS IN 1981

State/District	Persons Males Females	Total population	Percentage of population engaged as			
			Total workers	Main workers	Marginal workers	Non-workers
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tamil Nadu . . .	P	100.00	41.73	39.31	2.42	58.27
	M	100.00	56.58	55.85	0.73	43.42
	F	100.00	26.52	22.36	4.16	73.48
1. Madras . .	P	100.00	28.31	27.90	0.41	71.69
	M	100.00	48.42	47.92	0.50	51.58
	F	100.00	6.80	6.47	0.33	93.20
2. Chengalpattu .	P	100.00	37.81	35.30	2.51	62.19
	M	100.00	54.21	53.11	1.10	45.79
	F	100.00	20.68	16.70	3.98	79.32
3. North Arcot . .	P	100.00	42.03	38.80	3.23	57.97
	M	100.00	56.53	55.64	0.89	43.47
	F	100.00	27.22	21.59	5.63	72.78
4. South Arcot . .	P	100.00	41.78	38.45	3.33	58.22
	M	100.00	56.40	55.44	0.96	43.60
	F	100.00	26.75	20.98	5.77	73.25
5. Dharmapuri . .	P	100.00	44.50	41.71	2.79	55.50
	M	100.00	59.17	58.60	0.57	40.83
	F	100.00	29.20	24.11	5.09	70.80
6. Salem . . .	P	100.00	47.93	45.53	2.40	52.07
	M	100.00	61.77	61.33	0.44	38.23
	F	100.00	33.34	28.89	4.45	66.66
7. Periyar . . .	P	100.00	51.78	49.68	2.10	48.22
	M	100.00	66.38	66.05	0.33	33.62
	F	100.00	36.51	32.55	3.96	63.49
8. Coimbatore . .	P	100.00	45.08	44.01	1.07	54.92
	M	100.00	61.11	60.78	0.33	38.89
	F	100.00	28.19	26.35	1.84	71.81

TABLE 9.2

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION OF EACH SEX INTO WORKERS, MARGINAL WORKERS AND NON-WORKERS IN STATE/DISTRICTS IN 1981

State/District	Persons Males Females	Total population	Percentage of population engaged as			
			Total workers	Main workers	Marginal workers	Non-workers
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9. Nilgiri . . .	P	100.00	38.85	38.14	0.71	61.15
	M	100.00	50.38	49.76	0.62	49.62
	F	100.00	26.81	26.00	0.81	73.19
10. Madurai . .	P	100.00	43.86	42.21	1.65	56.14
	M	100.00	56.60	56.12	0.48	43.40
	F	100.00	30.78	27.94	2.84	69.22
11. Tiruchchirappalli .	P	100.00	43.96	41.19	2.77	56.04
	M	100.00	58.30	57.65	0.65	41.70
	F	100.00	29.41	24.47	4.94	70.59
12. Thanjavur . .	P	100.00	39.06	36.39	2.67	60.94
	M	100.00	56.29	55.29	1.00	43.71
	F	100.00	21.63	17.27	4.36	78.37
13. Pudukkottai . .	P	100.00	41.12	36.26	4.86	58.88
	M	100.00	55.85	54.66	1.19	44.15
	F	100.00	26.49	17.99	8.50	73.51
14. Ramanathapuram .	P	100.00	44.21	40.54	3.67	55.79
	M	100.00	55.89	55.00	0.89	44.11
	F	100.00	32.80	26.42	6.38	67.20
15. Tirunelveli . .	P	100.00	42.83	40.47	2.36	57.17
	M	100.00	54.46	53.69	0.77	45.54
	F	100.00	31.70	27.80	3.89	68.31
16. Kanniyakumari .	P	100.00	29.04	27.62	1.42	70.96
	M	100.00	48.44	47.43	1.01	51.56
	F	100.00	9.34	7.50	1.84	90.66

TABLE 9.3

DISTRIBUTION OF MAIN WORKERS BY NINE INDUSTRIAL CATEGORIES IN TOTAL RURAL AND URBAN AREAS OF THE STATE

Industrial Category of workers		Total		Rural		Urban	
		Workers	Percentage	Workers	Percentage	Workers	Percentage
1		2	3	4	5	6	7
I	Cultivators	5,559,103	29.22	5,367,253	38.28	191,850	3.83
II	Agricultural Labourers	6,037,601	31.73	5,647,523	40.27	390,078	7.80
III	Livestock, Forestry, Fishing, etc.	505,568	2.66	342,506	2.44	163,062	3.26
IV	Mining & Quarrying	51,875	0.27	32,230	0.23	19,645	0.39
V	Manufacturing, Processing, Servicing and Repairs :						
V	(a) Household Industry	898,277	4.72	534,555	3.81	363,722	7.27
V	(b) Non-Household Industry	1,998,192	10.50	695,183	4.96	1,303,009	26.04
VI	Construction	339,489	1.79	137,311	0.98	202,178	4.04
VII	Trade and Commerce	1,607,969	8.45	518,499	3.70	1,089,470	21.77
VIII	Transport, Storage and Communications	553,623	2.91	143,125	1.02	410,498	8.20
IX	Other Services	1,474,696	7.75	604,090	4.31	870,606	17.40
	Total Workers	19,026,393	100.00	14,022,275	100.00	5,004,118	100.00

TABLE 9.4

PERCENTAGE OF MAIN WORKERS, MARGINAL WORKERS AND NON-WORKERS AMONG SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES IN 1981

State/District	Persons Males Females	SCHEDULED CASTES Percentage of			SCHEDULED TRIBES Percentage of		
		Main workers	Marginal workers	Non-workers	Main workers	Marginal workers	Non-workers
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Tamil Nadu .	P	45.86	3.23	50.91	48.20	3.11	48.69
	M	56.95	0.95	42.10	61.26	0.72	38.02
	F	34.55	5.54	59.91	34.73	5.57	59.70
1. Madras .	P	24.65	0.62	74.73	28.77	1.16	70.07
	M	42.66	0.78	56.56	46.07	0.91	53.02
	F	5.64	0.45	93.91	10.87	1.40	87.73
2. Chengalpattu	P	40.72	3.57	55.71	44.51	3.53	51.96
	M	53.68	1.48	44.84	59.39	1.65	38.96
	F	27.34	5.73	66.93	29.05	5.49	65.46
3. North Arcot	P	42.60	3.32	54.08	45.87	4.59	49.54
	M	54.26	1.16	44.58	62.93	0.87	36.20
	F	30.80	5.51	63.69	27.89	8.50	63.61
4. South Arcot	P	46.48	4.14	49.38	52.24	2.42	45.34
	M	57.78	1.09	41.13	61.26	0.68	38.06
	F	34.90	7.26	57.84	42.87	4.23	52.90
5. Dharmapuri	P	44.29	3.07	52.64	47.37	3.51	49.12
	M	57.63	0.69	41.68	60.73	0.41	38.86
	F	30.33	5.55	64.12	33.16	6.81	60.03
6. Salem . .	P	49.80	2.58	47.62	55.18	3.23	41.59
	M	60.02	0.54	39.44	65.48	0.34	34.18
	F	39.06	4.72	56.22	44.62	6.19	49.19
7. Periyar .	P	56.60	2.24	41.16	44.89	2.40	52.71
	M	66.62	0.41	32.97	61.09	1.07	37.84
	F	46.17	4.15	49.68	27.65	3.81	68.54

TABLE 9.4

PERCENTAGE OF MAIN WORKERS, MARGINAL WORKERS AND NON-WORKERS AMONG SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES IN 1981

State/District	Persons Males Females	SCHEDULED CASTES Percentage of Main workers	Marginal workers	Non-workers	SCHEDULED TRIBES Percentage of Main workers	Marginal workers	Non-workers
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8. Coimbatore .	P	51.67	1.20	47.13	51.43	1.97	46.60
	M	61.07	0.52	38.41	63.97	0.53	35.50
	F	42.00	1.91	56.09	37.91	3.51	58.58
9. Nilgiri .	P	42.61	0.93	56.46	50.87	1.56	47.57
	M	48.85	1.01	50.14	57.02	1.19	41.79
	F	36.26	0.85	62.89	44.64	1.93	53.43
10. Madurai .	P	49.84	2.07	48.09	43.96	0.64	55.40
	M	58.05	0.66	41.29	57.15	0.49	42.36
	F	41.44	3.51	55.05	30.53	0.79	68.68
11. Tiruchchirappalli	P	47.54	3.26	49.20	42.90	3.11	53.99
	M	58.42	0.77	40.81	59.66	0.79	39.55
	F	36.61	5.76	57.63	26.25	5.42	68.33
12. Thanjavur .	P	50.24	4.77	44.99	37.07	1.30	61.63
	M	61.23	1.05	37.72	48.70	0.47	50.83
	F	38.94	8.60	52.46	25.45	2.13	72.42
13. Pudukkottai	P	40.71	5.86	53.43	29.62	6.73	63.65
	M	56.31	1.39	42.30	43.08	2.49	54.43
	F	25.02	10.37	64.61	17.38	10.58	72.04
14. Ramanathapuram .	P	45.89	4.71	49.40	46.20	1.63	52.17
	M	56.18	1.25	42.57	52.81	0.34	46.85
	F	35.63	8.16	56.21	39.93	2.86	57.21
15. Tirunelveli	P	49.60	2.96	47.44	42.73	1.86	55.41
	M	56.79	0.87	42.34	56.73	0.48	42.79
	F	42.72	4.96	52.32	29.59	3.15	67.26
16. Kanniyakumari	P	34.19	2.28	63.53	27.92	1.34	70.74
	M	50.53	1.13	48.34	42.93	0.74	56.33
	F	17.90	3.43	78.67	12.25	1.96	85.79

TABLE 9.5

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MAIN WORKERS AMONG SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES BY CATEGORIES, 1981

State/District	Scheduled Castes				Scheduled Tribes			
	C	AL	HHI	OW	C	AL	HHI	OW
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
TAMIL NADU	18.18	62.98	1.33	17.51	47.33	34.03	1.62	17.02
1. Madras	0.04	0.19	1.08	98.69	0.39	0.06	8.54	91.01
2. Chengalpattu	17.10	63.70	0.70	18.50	8.34	55.69	3.76	32.21
3. North Arcot	20.54	60.46	2.36	16.64	48.48	36.32	1.29	13.91
4. South Arcot	23.72	68.07	0.34	7.87	59.34	28.99	2.08	9.59
5. Dharmapuri	36.13	52.52	2.07	9.28	59.69	34.89	1.40	4.02
6. Salem	10.30	69.80	2.14	17.76	66.77	23.38	0.12	9.73
7. Periyar	3.48	85.00	1.15	10.37	39.55	44.35	0.69	15.41
8. Coimbatore	1.16	70.75	0.64	27.45	19.22	69.40	0.17	11.21
9. Nilgiri	0.74	3.84	0.15	95.27	2.76	40.14	0.44	56.66
10. Madurai	13.46	71.70	1.31	13.53	16.50	38.72	5.30	39.48
11. Tiruchchirappalli	25.58	61.09	2.02	11.31	53.81	32.11	0.78	13.30
12. Thanjavur	12.54	82.00	0.51	4.95	2.29	15.70	15.84	66.17
13. Pudukkottai	51.14	36.45	1.02	11.39	32.52	24.50	4.01	38.97
14. Ramanathapuram	35.64	42.22	1.26	20.88	42.43	15.08	1.57	40.92
15. Tirunelveli	25.36	55.30	3.16	16.18	36.57	19.64	10.53	33.26
16. Kanniyakumari	6.20	57.54	2.53	33.73	36.11	33.41	5.01	25.47

C — Cultivators
AL — Agricultural Labourers
HHI — Household Industry Workers
OW — Other Workers

TABLE 9.6

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MAIN WORKERS BY NINE INDUSTRIAL* CATEGORIES, 1981

State/District	Total Workers	I	II	III	IV	V(a)	V(b)	VI	VII	VIII	IX
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
TAMIL NADU .	100.00	29.22	31.73	2.66	0.27	4.72	10.50	1.79	8.45	2.91	7.75
1. Madras . .	100.00	0.14	0.13	1.05	0.02	1.76	28.24	5.65	25.73	11.58	25.70
2. Chengalpattu .	100.00	22.57	32.65	1.95	0.36	5.36	13.65	1.94	7.89	3.92	9.71
3. North Arcot .	100.00	35.29	32.54	1.33	0.14	6.04	7.79	1.39	6.62	2.61	6.25
4. South Arcot .	100.00	38.41	38.98	1.72	0.95	2.37	4.17	0.88	5.44	1.55	5.53
5. Dharmapuri .	100.00	55.09	27.98	0.58	0.16	1.63	3.52	0.93	4.77	1.19	4.15
6. Salem . .	100.00	31.08	30.12	1.03	0.45	8.21	13.26	1.76	6.31	2.48	5.30
7. Periyar . .	100.00	28.17	37.81	1.02	N	5.97	10.08	2.09	6.88	2.17	5.81
8. Coimbatore .	100.00	15.76	31.67	3.94	0.18	4.33	19.58	2.87	10.16	3.44	8.07
9. Nilgiri . .	100.00	3.04	6.05	58.48	0.39	0.37	8.62	2.91	6.71	3.46	9.97
10. Madurai . .	100.00	25.96	39.36	2.05	0.30	3.11	8.48	1.44	9.17	2.59	7.54
11. Tiruchchirappalli .	100.00	38.80	31.26	0.60	0.14	3.85	8.05	1.41	7.24	2.67	5.98
12. Thanjavur . .	100.00	24.87	46.10	1.89	0.01	2.78	5.29	1.26	8.55	2.15	7.10
13. Pudukkottai .	100.00	55.68	20.89	0.56	0.41	1.94	5.10	1.25	6.69	1.25	6.23
14. Ramanathapuram	100.00	38.00	24.81	2.71	0.14	4.95	12.25	1.21	7.57	1.87	6.49
15. Tirunelveli . .	100.00	24.50	29.71	3.04	0.32	10.98	10.85	1.30	9.02	2.52	7.76
16. Kanniyakumari .	100.00	11.68	36.76	9.23	0.36	4.47	8.98	3.86	9.63	3.55	11.48

N—Negligible.

*For details of categories I to IX, see Table 9.3

TABLE 9.7

WORK PARTICIPATION RATES BY BROAD AGE-GROUPS AND SEX, 1971-1981

Age-group	1971			1981		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
All Ages . . .	35.78	56.02	15.09	39.30	55.85	22.36
0—14 . . .	4.58	6.22	2.92	5.14	5.74	4.52
15—19 . . .	36.65	54.85	17.52	41.34	54.71	28.05
20—24 . . .	51.16	81.50	20.65	53.78	77.96	29.77
25—29 . . .	57.23	95.57	23.22	61.05	91.42	32.29
30—39 . . .	61.66	97.95	25.50	66.97	96.90	37.64
40—49 . . .	64.49	97.70	27.54	69.37	97.26	38.80
50—59 . . .	60.83	93.94	24.43	63.60	91.75	32.45
60+ . . .	42.26	70.23	13.27	39.36	60.97	16.47

TABLE 9.8

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WORKERS BY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

Educational Level	TOTAL			RURAL			URBAN		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Illiterate	49.26	37.51	79.32	58.03	45.82	83.96	24.69	18.39	55.07
Literate upto Primary and Middle levels (Including those without educational level) .	37.90	46.53	15.82	35.43	45.41	14.24	44.83	49.12	24.09
Matriculation, Higher Secondary and Technical and non-technical diplomas or certificates not equal to degree . . .	10.77	13.50	3.79	5.95	7.99	1.60	24.28	26.16	15.24
Graduate and above	2.07	2.46	1.07	0.59	0.78	0.20	6.20	6.33	5.60
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

TABLE 9.9

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF NON-WORKERS BY MAIN ACTIVITY

Main activity of non-workers	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4
Total Non- workers	100.00	100.00	100.00
1. Full-time students	27.80	43.69	18.19
2. Household duties	30.35	1.52	47.79
3. Dependents and Infants . . .	36.93	46.09	31.39
4. Retired, rentiers and persons of independent Means	2.50	3.74	1.75
5. Beggars, Vagrants etc. . . .	0.05	0.07	0.03
6. Inmates of penal, mental and charitable Institutions	0.08	0.13	0.05
7. Others	2.29	4.76	0.80

CHAPTER X

FERTILITY LEVELS AND TRENDS

'Demography' is a well recognised science dealing with population statistics including causes and consequences of population changes, besides several other aspects of population. Demographers are always curious about the three basic factors that cause population changes. These factors are the number of people who are born, the number of people who die and the number of people who move into or out of a given place or area. These are technically termed as fertility, mortality and migration. Through specific questions asked during the 1981 Census enumeration, we have gathered interesting information (in an area sample of 20 per cent blocks) relating to certain aspects of fertility and migration. We will be discussing the estimated data on these two important characteristics, which have been compiled on the basis of answers to these questions, in the next two chapters, the present one dealing with 'fertility'.

Census questions relating to fertility

Fertility is one of the main components of growth. Most of the studies on fertility in the past were either fragmentary in nature or restricted to local areas and as such did not provide reliable estimates, separately for rural and urban areas and also at the state level as well as the national level. In some of the earlier censuses, information had been collected on fertility aspects such as total number of children born, etc., by including additional questions in the Census Schedule. The data, however, sufferred from observational errors namely recall lapse in reporting total births and infant deaths. Information relating to fertility was collected universally in census during 1971 when the following two questions were put for every 'currently married women'; (i) Age at marriage and (ii) Any child born in the last one year.

During the 1981 Census, two specific questions relating to fertility were asked through sample individual slip. The first question covered all ever married women in the households of the sample blocks and elicited data on (a) age at marriage, (b) number of children surviving at present (by sex) and (c) number

of children ever born (by sex). The second question, viz., 'any child born alive during last one year' covered 'currently married women' only.

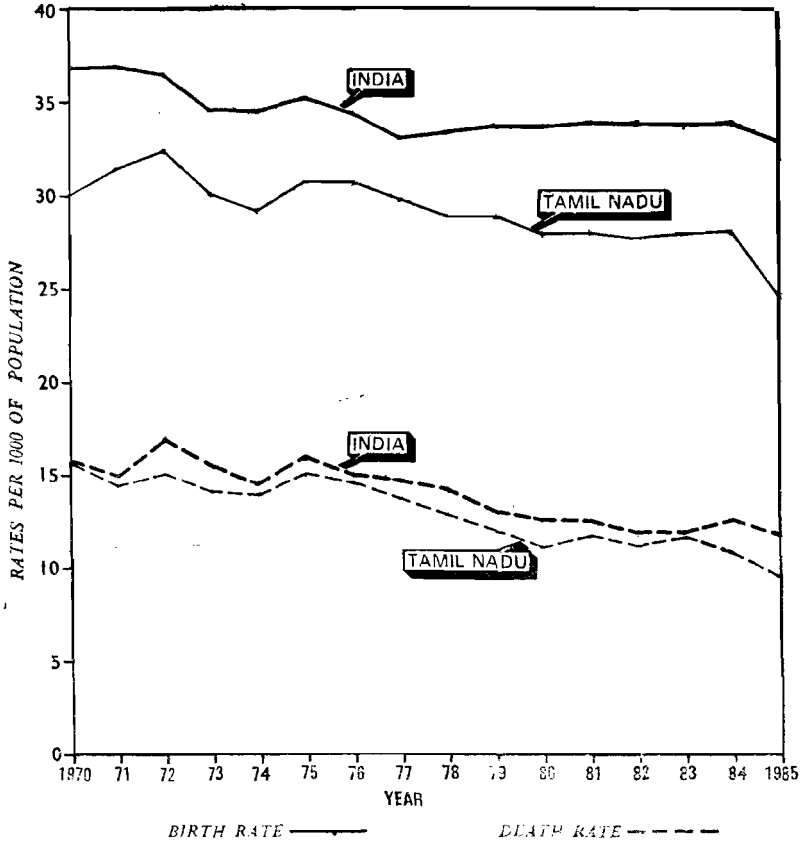
Fertility

When we talk of fertility, we refer only to the reproductive performance, that is, how many babies are actually born and not about the biological capacity for reproduction, known as fecundity. Fertility is considered as one of the main components of population growth. Though the family welfare measures have been increasingly implemented in the last three decades towards controlling the population growth, there has been a sizable increase in population in this period. This is said to be due to the steep decline in mortality. In the context of economic and social planning, there is an increasing need for a detailed analysis of the fertility pattern and differentials by socio-economic variables. The fertility indicators about which information is presented here are age-specific fertility rate (ASFR), age-specific marital fertility rate (ASMFR), general fertility rate (GFR), general marital fertility rate (GMFR), total fertility rate (TFR) and total marital fertility rate (TMFR) and these are based on the question on "births during last year". Apart from these, certain other sources of fertility data are also discussed here. The above indices have also been explained in the succeeding paragraphs.

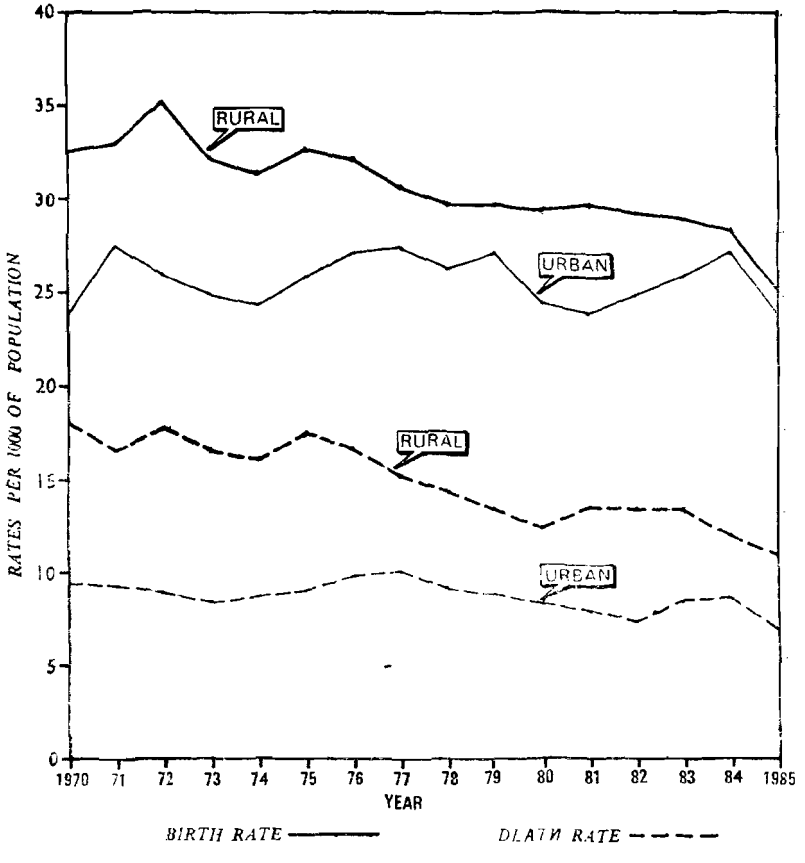
Child-Woman ratio

The ratio of children in the younger ages to women in the reproductive age group is considered as an important index of fertility. Table 10.1 gives the ratio of children in the age group 0.4 to 100 women belonging to the reproductive ages of 15-44 in Tamil Nadu and its districts as revealed by the census data in 1971 and 1981. That there is a sharp fall in the fertility ratios in Tamil Nadu is obvious from the steep decline in the child-woman ratio—from 58.73 in 1971 to 48.15 in 1981. The decline in this index of fertility amounts to 18.01 per cent for the state during 1971-81. The decrease in the ratio during the 1971-81 decade is observed in every district and is seen to be quite substantial in many districts. Dharmapuri district has revealed the highest ratio of 70.50 in 1971 and 59.90 in 1981. Periyar district has registered the lowest ratio among the districts both during 1971 (49.34) and 1981 (36.98). The two districts of Periyar and Coimbatore (both of which constituted a single district prior to bifurcation in 1979) have very low child-woman ratios in both 1971 and 1981. The fall in the ratio in the 1971-81

ANNUAL BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR INDIA AND TAMIL NADU, 1970-85



ANNUAL BIRTH AND DEATH RATES IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS OF TAMIL NADU, 1970-85



decade is seen to be the largest in the case of Nilgiri, amounting to 31.71 per cent and the lowest decline is recorded in Pudukkottai district where the decline is just 6.03 per cent.

Ratio of children born to married women

Based on the data collected on the number of children ever born alive to ever married women (i.e. women other than those who were never married), the ratio of children works to 311 for every 100 women in the State. A limitation that is to be borne in mind here is that married women of all ages including those who had not completed their reproductive span of life, in addition to widowers, separated and divorced women, have been considered in the calculation of this ratio. The highest ratio of 363 children per 100 married women is noticed in Kanniyakumari district and the second highest, viz., 347 is also in its neighbouring district viz., Tirunelveli. Nine of the 16 districts of Tamil Nadu have recorded higher ratios than the average State ratio of 311 children per 100 ever married women. There are six districts with ratios below 300 of which Periyar has the lowest (266).

Birth Rates

The crude birth rate, as it is called is well recognised as one of the simplest and basic measures of fertility. This birth rate is calculated by relating the total live births in an year to the total population of all ages and expressing it as a rate per 1,000 persons. Symbolically, if B is the number of live births and P is the population in a given geographical area during a specified year, then the crude birth rate is given by:

$$BR = \frac{B}{P} \times 1{,}000$$

The normal source for the birth rate is the civil registration system, whereby births are reported and recorded soon after occurrence. The civil registration is now done under the provisions of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969. This system, however, suffers from considerable under-registration and hence the vital statistics data compiled under the scheme "Sample Registration System" are considered more dependable. This 'Sample Registration System' is being implemented in the country by the Registrar-General, India by a method of continuous enumeration of births and deaths in a sample of villages/urban blocks by resident part-time enumerators and half yearly survey of these sample areas by departmental officials. This system covers about 6,000 blocks in the country. The birth rates for India and Tamil

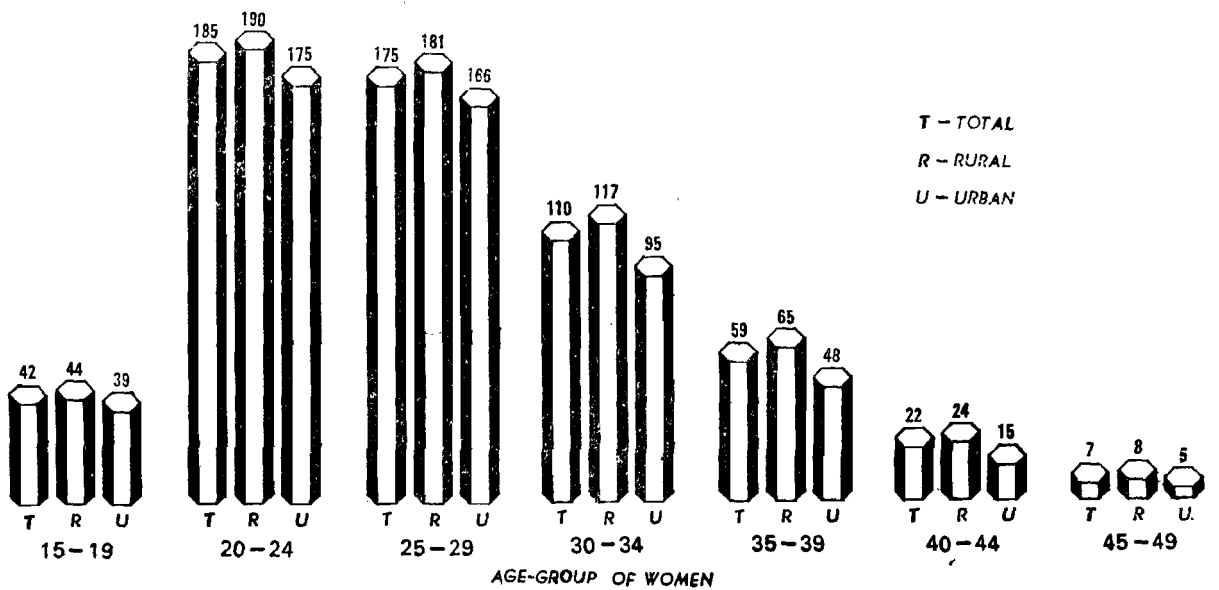
Nadu as estimated from the recorded events under this system are presented in Table 10.3, separately for the total, rural and urban areas for each year from 1970 to 1985. It is observed from these rates that the birth rate has declined over the years only marginally. In the urban areas of Tamil Nadu, the rate in 1985 (23.8) has declined from that of the few previous years. The decline is rather steep as compared to 1984 rate (27.2). In the case of urban areas of India, however, we find that the decrease is from 29.4 in 1984 to 28.0 in 1985. As compared to 1970 level, the decrease in birth rate is more pronounced in the rural areas. The birth rate in rural Tamil Nadu has fallen below the level 30 per 1000 population from the year 1978 onwards and stands at 25.2 in 1985. The rural rate for India stands at 34.3 in 1985. The family welfare measures in Tamil Nadu are known to be more widespread and accepted than in the country as a whole and this has resulted obviously in reduced birth rates in the state.

Decline in population of younger ages

Decline in fertility is also reflected by the percentage distribution of population in the younger age groups. We observe from the census data that the proportion of population in the five year age group 0-4 to the total population in Tamil Nadu was 13.68 per cent in 1961 and it was 13.09 per cent during 1971. In 1981, we find that this rate has sharply fallen to 11.14 per cent. Similarly, when we consider the age group of 5-9, we notice that the proportion of members of these ages to the total State's population which was 12.79 per cent in 1961 had increased in 1971 to 13.17 per cent. In 1981, however, we observe a steeper decline in this ratio to 11.96 per cent. Children upto 14 years constituted 37.78 per cent of State's population in 1971, but they constitute only 35.02 per cent in 1981. The decline in the proportion of population in 0-9 ages clearly indicates that the fertility rate has declined during 1971-81. The quantum of decline is somewhat higher in the age group 0-4, as compared to that of age group 5-9, which indicates that the decline in fertility during the second half of the decade has been greater than that during the first half of the decade.

The actual population of 0-4 ages in the State has recorded a marginal increase of hardly 5,000 (i.e. 0.08 per cent) during the 10 year period 1971-81. The population increase in the age-group 5-9 in the State in this decade is somewhat more, viz., 6.75 per cent. The decline in the levels of fertility would, however, be obvious if we compare these growth rates with the overall decadal

AGE SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATE, 1981



population increase of 17.5 per cent. During the previous decade of 1961-71. the population increase in 0-4 and 5-9 age groups was 16.97 per cent and 25.94 per cent respectively. The State population increased during 1961-71 by 22.30 per cent.

The average age of the population is also showing an upward trend—from 25.9 years for males and 25.6 years for females in 1971 to 26.9 years in 1981 for males and 26.6 years for females. The population of the State is ageing gradually and there are on the average more older people than what it was 10 years ago.

Fertility Indices

Data on age specific fertility— and age—specific marital fertility rates are provided in Table 10.4. The age specific fertility rate indicates the average number of children born alive during the one year preceding 1981 Census per 1,000 women in each age group. The age specific marital fertility rate gives the same ratio per 1,000 'married women only' under each age group. It is observed from the rates that fertility among the women of age groups 20-24 and 25-29 are the highest as compared to the other age groups. The 'general fertility rate', which represents the number of children born alive during the previous year to 1,000 women of child bearing ages (15-49) is 94 for the State. It is higher in the rural areas of the State viz., 96, as against 90 in the urban areas. If we consider this ratio to married females aged 15-59 alone, then the rate termed as "General Marital Fertility Rate" is 129 for the State.

When we compare the Age—Specific Fertility Rates of 1981 Census with the average of such rates for the period 1971-1975 as derived from the results of the Sample Registration System (vide Table 10.5) we find a general decline in almost all ages. The exceptions are only in age groups 45-49 in rural areas and 20-24 in the urban areas. The percentage decline is observed to be higher in the rural areas than in the urban areas and this is probably quite an unexpected turn. The question on any birth during the last one year was also canvassed during the 1971 Census for all currently married women as in 1981. However, we could not compare the results of 1971 Census with those in 1981, as it was then compiled for age groups 13-17, 18-22, 23-27 etc., as against 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, etc., now. Hence the Age-Specific Fertility and Marital Fertility Rates are not strictly comparable between 1971 and 1981 Censuses.

Age at marriage

The age at marriage of women is an important factor that influences the fertility pattern. As we know, the reproductive span of women generally begins at the age of 15 and extends upto 44-49 years, though there are exceptional cases of births in the case of some women with ages below or above this level. The younger ages of this reproductive span are generally known to be periods of high fertility. As such, any increase in the age at marriage of women results in sizable decrease in the fertility. The age at marriage for girls in our country has been traditionally very low for the past several years and this is attributed to the very poor rates of literacy among female population, the role played by women, who by and large were confined to household chores and family maintenance, the prevailing religious beliefs, conventions and superstitions. The increasing literacy rates among females, particularly in Tamil Nadu, and the change in the role of women in society as observed in the last two-three decades, besides social and economic changes have undoubtedly resulted in some increase in the marriage age of women in recent times. This is said to have resulted in a good decline in fertility, thus contributing to some degree of population control.

There are 11.2 million females in the age group 15-44 years in Tamil Nadu and among them, 8.14 million (or 72.62 per cent) are married as per 1981 Census. The national average of married females in this age group is 80.48 per cent. Based on the question on age at marriage asked of all married women, it has been estimated that the mean age at marriage of the currently married females is 18.4 years in Tamil Nadu. Not much of a difference is seen in the age at marriage between the rural (18.3 years) and urban (18.4 years) areas of the State. The mean age at marriage for currently married women is estimated as 20.3 years in Kanniyakumari district. The statutory minimum age for marriage in our country stands at 21 years for males and 18 years for females. The mean age at marriage for currently married females is below even the statutory minimum of 18 years in the districts of Chengalpattu, North Arcot, South Arcot, Dharmapuri and Salem. In the districts of Coimbatore (19.0), Ramanathapuram (19.0) and Tirunelveli (19.5), the mean age at marriage of women is comparatively higher. Considering the rural areas of the districts, five of the 15 districts have lower mean marriage age for females than the prescribed minimum of 18 years. In the urban areas of three districts also, *viz.*, North Arcot, Dharmapuri and Salem, the age at marriage of women is estimated as below 18 years. Some selected nuptiality indices as in 1981 are given for State and districts in Table 10.6.

As a result of the differential ages at marriage of females in the districts, age-sex distribution of population and other social characteristics, wide variation in the percentage of married females in the 15-44 age group among the districts is noticed. The percentage of married among the females of 15-44 ages is found to be the lowest viz., 58.38 per cent in Kanniyakumari and it is the highest, among the districts, in Dharmapuri where it is 80.55 per cent. It is interesting to observe that with the exception of Madras (which is an urban district), all the districts in which the percentage of married females in the 15-44 ages is below 70, viz., Kanniyakumari (58.38 per cent), Nilgiri (66.79 per cent), Tirunelveli (67.19 per cent) and Coimbatore (69.48 per cent), are bordering Kerala State, where similar percentage is quite low. Most of the districts which have proportion of married females in 15-44, below the State average (of 72.62 per cent), are found to be in the southern part of the State. The districts with a higher ratio than the State average, viz., Chengalpattu, North Arcot, South Arcot, Dharmapuri, Salem and Periyar are all lying as a contiguous belt in the northern region of the State.

The ratio of couples per 1,000 population is also an important index throwing light on fertility. Kanniyakumari district again has the lowest couple population ratio of 137—per 1,000 population among the 16 districts, while Salem has the highest ratio of 180. In Salem as also Periyar (177) districts were this ratio is much higher than the other districts as also State (168), it is noticed that the proportion of females in the reproductive age groups as well as the proportion of married females among them are also high.

Using the data estimated from 5 per cent sample, relating to the proportion of 'population single' by age group, the Singulate Mean Age at Marriage (SMAM) has been worked out by applying Hajnal's method using cross section data. According to this, the age at marriage for males in Tamil Nadu is 25.97 years and 20.22 years for females. For India, the figures are 23.27 years for males and 18.32 years for females. As may be observed from this, the marriage age is much higher in Tamil Nadu, as compared with the rest of the country.

Age-Specific Marital Fertility Rates by Religion

Religion is an important characteristic that is said to be the cause for differentials in fertility. The age-specific marital fertility rates (ASMFRs) for the reproductive age groups for the three major religions have been calculated from the 1981 Census data (vide Table 10.7). It is observed that the rates are generally higher

in the case of Muslim and Christian married women than among the Hindu married women. Of the three major religious groups discussed here, we find that the rates among the important age groups of 20-24, 25-29, and 30-34 are the highest among the Christian women, than among the Hindu and Muslim women of these age groups.

To have a clearer picture on the fertility differentials by religion and the extent of their variation in the last decade, we can look to the comparable indices of General Marital Fertility Rates and Total Marital Fertility Rates during 1971 and 1981 in the rural and urban areas of the State (vide Table 10.8). Surprisingly, only a small decline in the case of GMFR is observed in 1981, the rates being 129 for 'rural' and 127 for 'urban' areas. The TMFR has, however, increased in both the rural and urban areas when we consider each of the three major religions, the urban rates for Hindus being the only exception, where it has remained at the same level (3.9). The rate per married women in the case of all religions too stands at the same level of 4.0 both during 1971 and 1981. The GMFR has declined in the case of Hindus (both in rural and urban areas), Muslims in rural areas only and Christians in urban areas. Marginal increases in the rates are observed among Muslims in urban areas and Christians in rural areas.

Sex ratio of children ever born

The ratio of female children of 1,000 male children also gives an idea about the sex differentials among children and it has a bearing on the levels of fertility and the growth of population. In Tamil Nadu, the sex ratio of children even born is much below the generally accepted figure of 952. It is universally accepted that the sex ratio at birth has more or less stabilised at the level of 952 live female babies for every 1,000 live male babies born. The ratio stands at 916 as per 1981 data (vide Table 10.9). It is 916 in the rural and 914 in the urban areas. The sex ratio of children ever born is the lowest among Muslims (909) when considering the three major religious groups of Hindus, Christians and Muslims. Among Hindu children, the ratio is 915 and among Christians it is high, viz., 936. Considering the age groups above 15, we find that in the age groups of 15-19, 25-29, and 30-34 of mothers, the sex ratio of children is generally high. Among Muslims, the highest ratio (949) is observed in 15-19 ages and among the Christians we find the highest ratio of 978 in the age group of 30-34. Upto the age group of 30-34, sex ratio seems to be reasonable and above this group, the ratio declines in all the three religions, which indicates that female children were much less among the older women.

Married women with three and more children

In the present context of increasing population, it is felt that the ratio of married females with three and more children should be brought down to a very low level. Even the two-child norm does not appear to be sufficient to arrest the increasing rate of population. From the 1981 Census results, we notice that 53.55 per cent of ever married females have three children and more in Tamil Nadu. This percentage is somewhat less, viz., 52.98 per cent among the Hindus. The ratio is the highest among the married females of Christians (59.13 per cent). Among Muslim ever married women, the ratio is 57.63 per cent. Higher percentages of ever married females with three and more children are observed in the higher age groups of women of 35-39 and above. The highest ratios are in the 40-44 and 45-49 age groups, as in these ages, the reproductive span of women comes to an end. The need for further intensive measures towards population control becomes obvious from these figures. We observe that married women with one and two children constitute a lower ratio and are in a minority.

Last year's births and birth order

Considering the births in the last one year before the enumeration alone in the entire state, (estimated as 1.17 million), we observe that 28.39 per cent are the first order births, 23.50 per cent are second births and the rest of about 48 per cent third and above births. This again proves the high fertility level in spite of about three decades of intense family welfare activities and propaganda about the advantages of small family norms. The ratio of first order births to total births is more in the urban areas (30.42 per cent) than in the rural areas (27.44 per cent). In the second order births too, the ratio is more in the urban areas, viz 25.10 per cent than in the rural areas (22.74 per cent). Third order births are more or less similar in the rural and urban areas —17.60 per cent in the rural and 17.69 per cent in the urban areas. Births of fourth and above order constitute a higher percentage of 31.79 per cent of the total rural births than similar ratio for the urban areas (26.29 per cent). The data above clearly point to the larger extent of first and second order births in the urban areas and more of higher order births in the rural areas. The slow and poor impact of the fertility control measures, particularly in the rural areas where more people are still tradition-bound and convention-ridden in their attitudes, is revealed to some extent by this ratio.

Childless women

The ratio of women who have had no live births is calculated from the number of women who have completed their reproductive span of life, that is, those ever married women who are 50 years and above and who have had no live births. The proportion of ever married women of 50 years and above who have had no live births in the State works to 8.70 per cent. This ratio is slightly more in the rural areas (8.78 per cent) and less in the urban areas (8.51 per cent).

Number of children ever born

The average number of children ever born per women and per ever married woman in each five year age group give an idea on the fertility at different ages (Table 10.11). The average No. of children gradually increases with every five year age group, both in rural and urban areas, reaches the maximum in the age groups of 40-44 and 45-49. The average exceeds four children in these higher reproductive age-groups. The average number is found to be slightly lesser in the 50 + age group (3.9) as against the previous age group in which it is 4.2, both for every woman and every married woman. Not much difference in the average number of children are observed between the rural and urban areas in the different age groups. A variety of tables on fertility differentials by religion, educational level, occupation, etc. cross-classified by age at marriage, present age, parity, surviving children, etc., have been compiled and presented for 1981 and these are available in a separate 1981 Census publication on Fertility Tables (Part VI-A and B), for Tamil Nadu, containing valuable data in 27 different tables.

TABLE 10.1

CHILD-WOMAN RATIO (CHILDREN IN AGE GROUP 0-4 TO 100 WOMEN IN AGE GROUP 15-44)

State/District	Child-Woman Ratio		Percentage of decline in ratio
	1971	1981	
1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	58.73	48.15	18.01
1. Madras	52.30	41.30	21.03
2. Chengalpattu	62.72	52.50	16.29
3. North Arcot	63.56	57.72	9.19
4. South Arcot	63.59	55.37	12.93
5. Dharmapuri	70.50	59.90	15.04
6. Salem	54.19	41.14	24.08
7. Periyar	49.34	36.98	25.05
8. Coimbatore	50.59	37.64	25.60
9. Nilgiri	59.61	40.71	31.71
10. Madurai	61.28	48.69	20.55
11. Tiruchchirappalli	57.32	45.05	21.41
12. Thanjavur	56.00	45.05	19.55
13. Pudukkottai	57.39	53.93	6.03
14. Ramanathapuram	62.80	52.58	16.27
15. Tirunelveli	58.25	49.18	15.57
16. Kanniyakumari	58.70	48.48	17.41

TABLE 10.2

CHILDREN BORN TO 100 TOTAL EVER MARRIED WOMEN, 1981

Ratio of total children born per 100 total ever married women in the range of	District
1	2
285 & Below	1. Salem (281)
	2. Periyar (266)
286 to 300	1. Madras (298)
	2. Coimbatore (299)
	3. Tiruchchirappalli (286)
	4. Thanjavur (297)
301 to 315	1. Madurai (315)
	2. Pudukkottai (302)
	TAMIL NADU (311)
316 to 330	1. Chengalpattu (316)
	2. South Arcot (325)
	3. Dharmapuri (316)
	4. Ramanathapuram (326)
331 to 345	1. North Arcot (335)
	2. Nilgiri (334)
346 & above	1. Tirunelveli (347)
	2. Kanniyakumari (363)

TABLE 10.3

BIRTH RATES FOR TAMIL NADU AND INDIA SINCE 1970

Year	Tamil Nadu			India		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1970	30.0	32.6	23.8	36.8	38.9	29.7
1971	31.4	32.9	27.8	36.9	38.9	30.1
1972	32.4	35.2	25.9	36.6	38.4	30.5
1973	30.0	32.2	24.9	34.6	35.9	28.9
1974	29.2	31.3	24.3	34.5	35.9	28.4
1975	30.7	32.7	25.9	35.2	36.7	28.5
1976	30.7	32.2	27.2	34.4	35.8	28.4
1977	29.8	30.7	27.5	33.0	34.3	27.8
1978	28.8	29.8	26.4	33.3	34.7	27.8
1979	28.9	29.7	27.2	33.7	35.1	27.6
1980	27.9	29.4	24.4	33.7	35.1	27.8
1981	28.0	29.7	23.9	33.9	35.6	27.0
1982	27.7	29.2	24.9	33.8	35.5	27.6
1983	27.9	29.0	25.9	33.7	35.3	28.3
1984	28.0	28.4	27.2	33.9	35.3	29.4
1985 . . .	24.7	25.2	23.8	32.9	34.3	28.1

Source : Sample Registration System

TABLE 10.4

FERTILITY INDICES IN TAMIL NADU, 1981

Age group of women	Age Specific Fertility Rate			Age Specific Marital Fertility Rate		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15—19 . . .	42	44	39	185	181	194
20—24 . . .	185	190	175	245	241	251
25—29 . . .	175	181	166	190	194	184
30—34 . . .	110	117	95	118	125	102
35—39 . . .	59	65	48	65	71	52
40—44 . .	22	24	15	26	29	18
45—49 . . .	7	8	5	9	10	7

TABLE 10.5

AGE SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES, 1981 AND 1971-75 (SRS)

Age Group of women	Rural			Urban		
	Census 1981	SRS 1971-75	Col.2 / Col.3 × 100	Census 1981	SRS 1971-75	Col.5 / Col.6 × 100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15—19 . .	44	94	46.81	39	49	79.59
20—24 . .	190	245	77.55	175	167	104.79
25—29 . .	181	230	78.70	166	179	92.74
30—34 . .	117	157	74.52	95	120	79.17
35—39 . .	65	90	75.22	48	63	76.19
40—44 . .	24	26	92.31	15	18	83.33
45—49 . .	8	6	133.33	5	6	83.33

TABLE 10.6

SELECTED NUPTIALITY INDICES 1981

State/District	Percentage of married females to total females in the age groups				Mean age at marriage @			Couples per 1,000 population
	15-44	10-14	15-19	20-24	Total	Rural	Urban	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
TAMIL NADU	72.62	0.36	22.81	75.49	18.4	18.3	18.4	168
1. Madras	69.75	0.27	21.04	67.39	18.6	..	18.6	169
2. Chengalpattu	74.76	0.42	27.46	79.85	17.9	17.7	18.2	169
3. North Arcot	76.72	0.70	34.11	83.52	17.4	17.4	17.7	169
4. South Arcot	77.67	0.53	31.42	85.70	17.7	17.6	18.0	175
5. Dharmapuri	80.55	1.02	41.59	88.57	17.5	17.5	17.6	172
6. Salem	76.24	0.41	30.44	81.81	17.8	17.8	17.7	180
7. Periyar	73.82	0.32	20.54	76.44	18.8	18.9	18.5	177
8. Coimbatore	69.48	0.24	16.44	67.52	19.0	19.2	18.7	167
9. Nilgiri	66.79	0.45	18.73	66.82	18.3	18.2	18.4	165
10. Madurai	71.64	0.24	21.42	74.71	18.5	18.6	18.4	165
11. Tiruchchirappalli	72.50	0.29	21.07	77.16	18.3	18.3	18.4	170
12. Thanjavur	72.36	0.18	19.64	78.08	18.2	18.2	18.2	171
13. Pudukkottai	72.99	0.27	17.38	77.32	18.9	18.9	18.6	165
14. Ramanathapuram	70.72	0.20	16.90	73.94	19.0	19.1	18.7	163
15. Tirunelveli	67.19	0.15	12.07	65.81	19.5	19.6	19.3	155
16. Kanniyakumari	58.38	0.05	4.91	44.69	20.3	20.3	20.1	137

@Refers to mean age at marriage of currently married females.

Source : RGI's Occasional Paper No. 4 of 1987, Page No. 38.

TABLE 10.7

AGE SPECIFIC MARITAL FERTILITY RATE BY RELIGION IN TAMIL NADU, 1981

Religion	Age Group of Women	Age specific marital fertility rate		
		Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5
Hindus	15—19	184	181	191
	20—24	242	239	248
	25—29	186	190	178
	30—34	115	123	96
	35—39	63	69	49
	40—44	25	28	17
	45—49	9	10	6
Muslims	15—19	198	179	209
	20—24	258	253	261
	25—29	210	215	208
	30—34	138	145	134
	35—39	83	91	77
	40—44	31	41	24
	45—49	14	15	13
Christians	15—19	192	178	215
	20—24	282	286	276
	25—29	239	252	220
	30—34	155	175	125
	35—39	88	104	61
	40—44	33	42	18
	45—49	9	12	5

TABLE 10.8

GENERAL MARITAL FERTILITY RATE AND TOTAL MARITAL FERTILITY RATE IN TAMIL NADU,1971 AND 1981

Religion	Rural Urban	GMFR		TMFR	
		1971	1981	1971	1981
1	2	3	4	5	6
All Religions . .	Rural	133	129 (96.99)	4.0	4.3 (107.50)
	Urban	133	127 (95.49)	4.0	4.0 (100.00)
Hindus . . .	Rural	131	127 (96.95)	4.0	4.2 (105.00)
	Urban	131	123 (93.89)	3.9	3.9 (100.00)
Muslims . . .	Rural	150	148 (98.67)	4.4	4.7 (106.82)
	Urban	147	152 (103.40)	4.3	4.6 (106.98)
Christians . .	Rural	156	159 (101.92)	4.9	5.2 (106.12)
	Urban	147	138 (93.88)	4.4	4.6 (104.55)

GMFR : General Marital Fertility Rate—No. of children born alive to 1,000 married women of reproductive age-group 15-49.

TMFR : Total Marital Fertility Rate—Total no. of children that would have born alive per married women, calculated with the present age-specific marital fertility rates.

Note : Figures in brackets in columns 4 and 6 indicate the percentage variation in the rates in 1981 over those of 1971.

TABLE 10.9.

SEX RATIO OF CHILDREN EVER BORN IN TAMIL NADU

Age of mother	All Religions			Hindus			Muslims			Chiristians		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
ALL AGES .	916	916	914	915	915	914	909	916	905	936	935	937
Less than 15 .	1,144	1,113	1,254	974	995	898	4,357	3,500	6,500	..	..	..
15—19 . .	955	957	951	959	959	958	949	966	941	848	831	870
20—24 . .	948	947	950	947	946	950	942	925	952	969	983	946
25—29 . .	952	954	949	953	954	950	947	970	934	957	948	973
30—34 . .	950	953	944	949	951	944	935	933	936	978	987	962
35—39 . .	931	931	934	932	930	936	922	930	916	941	940	944
40—44 . .	921	922	919	920	920	921	904	923	891	950	950	948
45—49 . .	894	893	895	891	891	893	886	889	884	933	934	931
50+ . .	883	884	880	882	883	878	877	884	872	904	902	909

TABLE 10.10

PERCENTAGE OF EVER MARRIED FEMALES WITH THREE CHILDREN OR MORE BY AGE GROUPS AND RELIGION IN TAMIL NADU

Age Group	All Religions			Hindus			Muslims			Christians		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
All Ages. .	53.55	53.87	52.85	52.98	53.34	52.12	57.63	58.04	57.37	59.13	61.33	55.37
15—19 . .	1.15	1.12	1.21	1.07	1.10	1.00	2.27	2.06	2.39	0.88	0.56	1.40
20—24 . .	12.12	11.64	13.09	11.71	11.42	12.34	20.49	19.37	21.13	18.61	22.89	11.73
25—29 . .	41.44	41.83	40.71	40.75	41.34	39.50	54.03	54.66	53.68	40.46	43.42	36.07
30—34 . .	61.41	61.78	60.64	61.12	61.72	59.72	71.14	70.66	71.45	62.99	67.20	56.57
35—39 . .	71.22	71.07	71.54	70.91	70.98	70.74	77.90	77.53	78.14	74.62	77.82	68.92
40—44 . .	71.82	71.54	72.50	71.22	70.96	71.89	75.55	75.03	75.92	78.36	80.07	75.25
45—49 . .	71.84	71.39	72.90	71.21	70.84	72.20	75.54	74.47	76.28	78.58	79.60	76.68
50 + . .	64.60	64.42	65.01	64.01	63.87	64.34	66.83	65.94	67.45	71.76	72.55	70.27

TABLE 10.11

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN PER WOMAN AND PER EVER MARRIED WOMAN IN TAMIL NADU, 1981

Age Group	Per woman			Per ever Married woman		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15—19 . . .	0.11	0.11	0.10	0.47	0.46	0.48
20—24 . . .	0.95	0.98	0.89	1.23	1.22	1.26
25—29 . . .	2.17	2.22	2.09	2.28	2.30	2.26
30—34 . . .	3.09	3.12	3.03	3.14	3.15	3.12
35—39 . . .	3.79	3.78	3.82	3.82	3.80	3.87
40—44 . . .	4.02	3.98	4.11	4.05	4.01	4.16
45—49 . .	4.19	4.12	4.35	4.21	4.13	4.39
50+	3.90	3.83	4.08	3.92	3.84	4.11

CHAPTER XI

MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE

'Migrant' in Census

'Migration' represents the movement of individuals or families from one village/town to another with the object of residing in that new village/town. Such changes in the residence of persons affect the population of both the village/town from which they have moved out and the village/town where they have newly settled. We know that people do move about from one village/town to another in search of employment, education, business, etc., or other reasons. Such migration causes a change in the size and structure of the population of the affected villages/towns in conjunction with the other two prominent factors of fertility and mortality. Migration in census does not include persons who just shift residences from one hamlet to another within the same village or from one ward to another of a town, or one house to another in the same block or locality of a town. Again, persons who move about and visit different villages/towns purely on tour, pilgrimage or temporary business purposes are not termed as migrants. A person is considered as a *migrant by place of birth* if the place in which he is enumerated during the census is other than the place of his birth. Similarly, if a person who has been enumerated in a village/town had resided in another village or town immediately before settling in the place of enumeration, he is considered as a *migrant by place of last residence*. A person who did not have any place of last residence, but was just born in a different village/town, the village/town where he was born is deemed to be his place of last residence.

Cause of movement

In the past, it was customary for the more adventurous people from rural areas to move towards seats of administration, trade and commercial centres, pilgrim centres etc., with the object of improving their economic prospects and enjoying greater material benefits. Natural calamities like floods, droughts, earthquakes, etc., uprooted the people and forced them to migrate to better centres where one can settle safely and eke out a better livelihood. In the last few decades, however, we have witnessed that as a result of industrialisation and economic development, large-scale migration of people have created big urban centres with high density and concentrations of people. Increased opportunities for higher education, better employment,

prospects of good business, demand for more goods and services, etc., attracted people to move away from their traditional settlements. While the movement in many cases was towards neighbouring towns/cities, etc., within the district and State, others possessing better skill or intelligence and those seeking more specialised technical jobs and possess necessary expertise preferred to move towards other metropolitan centres in other States and a few even preferred to go abroad.

Internal and International Migration

Migration towards higher educational and employment opportunities in foreign countries has assumed much significance in recent times. In the past, many from Tamil Nadu used to settle in Burma, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and countries in the south-east Asia, besides some countries in Africa. In the years after Independence, we find that several countries in the Middle-east and Africa which have become important due to their economic resources, besides the European countries, USA and Canada have been attracting people. A large number of people appear to be going to these countries, mostly towards employment, in recent times. Though no clear cut data are available on the extent of emigrants to the foreign countries from our State, the ratio of such persons to the State's population, it is felt, must be quite small. Based on the data on birth place gathered in census, we find that persons who have come to Tamil Nadu from abroad constitute just 59 per 10,000 of the population of Tamil Nadu. This ratio was 38 per 10,000 during 1971.

Most of the migrants who move away from their habitations, generally prefer to settle down in the neighbourhood, say in the adjacent bigger villages or towns/cities where they can eke out their livelihood and live with better amenities. These places are mostly within the district or in the adjoining district or districts of the State. While a small ratio of the migrants move to the neighbouring States too, migrants to far away States are smaller in number. Tamil Nadu is the second most densely populated State in South India, next to Kerala. As such, quite a number of families have moved away to other States and other metropolitan centres in the north and settled there. We have immigrants too from other States and most of them belong to the neighbouring States of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Pondicherry Union Territory. Nearly two per cent of the State's population are born in other States and Union Territories of India and of these, the bulk (1.71 per cent of the population of the State) are from the neighbouring States in South India.

Thus, internal migration is comparatively much higher and international migration is very small. Further, international

migration involves satisfaction of the immigration laws of the countries concerned and the observance of other formalities, including getting proper travel documents, besides monetary condition of the individual. Movements within the country, on the other hand, is free of any such restriction.

Data on migration collected in census

Till 1961 Census, migration data gathered in census were presented with reference to place of birth of individuals only. When a person was born in a place other than the place of enumeration, he was treated as a migrant in census. In censuses upto 1951, only a question about birth place was asked and the data presented related to the number of migrants by sex. In the 1961 Census, an effort was made to widen the scope of enquiry and information was gathered on birth place, whether it was rural or urban and the duration of residence, wherever a person was born elsewhere. A person who had migrated elsewhere and happened to be at the place of birth during the census enumeration was treated as non-migrant.

During 1971 Census, migration data were collected for the first time on the basis of place of last residence also, in addition to place of birth data. Duration of residence, in completed years, after migration from the last resided place to the village or town of enumeration, was also gathered. In the 1981 Census, the scope of the questions on migration has been further widened by collection of information on the reasons for migration, viz., employment, education, family moved, marriage and others.

Migrants by place of birth

A person is considered as a migrant by place of birth if the place in which he is enumerated during the census is other than the place of his birth. The estimated migrant population in the State based on place of birth is 13.78 million who constitute 28.47 per cent of the total population of Tamil Nadu. The number of male migrants are 4.79 million, while female migrants are 8.99 million. The larger number of females among the migrants is generally attributed to the prevailing custom of the girls moving away on marriage from their normal residence. It is quite obvious from the census data that a large majority of the State's population are living in the same village/town where they are born. This ratio was 71.44 per cent in 1971 and has increased marginally to 71.53 per cent in 1981. The habit of the people to continue to reside in the places where they are born (native villages or towns) is observed to be more among the rural population living in villages (74.97 per cent) than among the urban population (64.54 per cent).

Considering the urban population, i.e., those who live in the cities and towns of the State (numbering 434), we see that 35.46 per cent of them are migrants and are born in other villages and towns (vide Table 11.1). Those who migrate to places within the same district where they are born, constitute 17.74 per cent. This ratio was 18.93 per cent in 1971. Thus, we see that nearly 9 out of 10 persons do not move away from their districts of birth. Birth-place migrants who have settled in the other districts of Tamil Nadu, other than the ones where they were born, constitute 8.24 per cent. The increase in this proportion from 7.28 in 1971 seems to indicate a higher inter-district movement now than before. There are many who are born outside the State (i.e. born in other States/Union Territories in India), and now reside in Tamil Nadu. They form 1.90 per cent and of this, a major part (1.71 per cent) represents persons born in the adjacent southern States of Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and the Union Territory of Pondicherry. Birth-place migrants from foreign countries enumerated in Tamil Nadu form just 0.59 per cent.

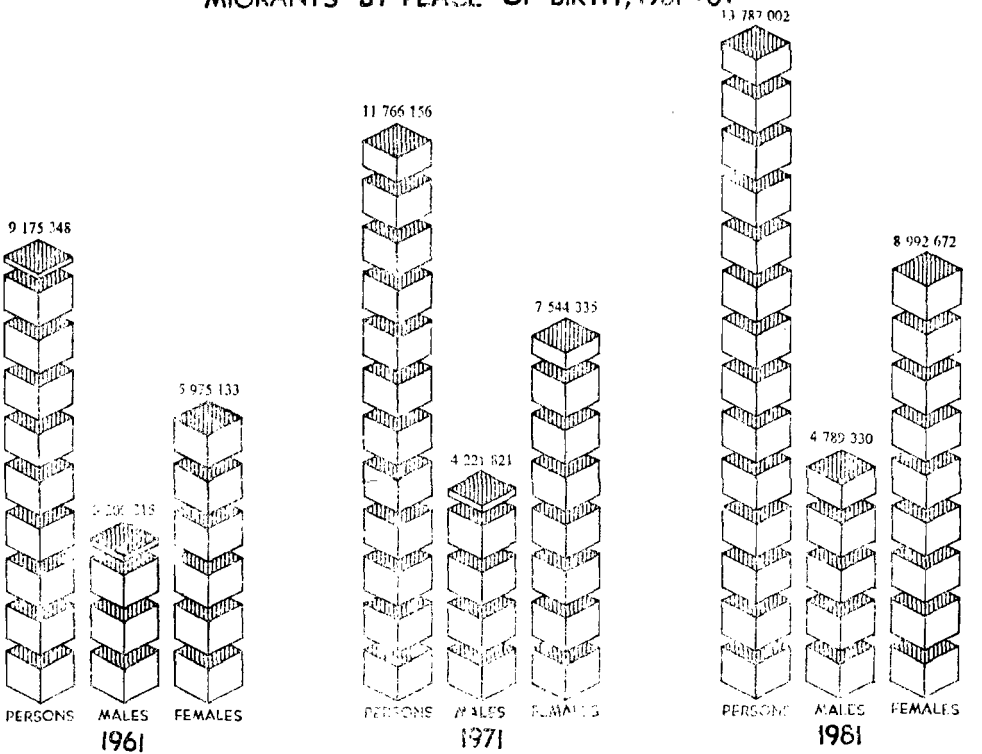
Migrants by place of birth in the districts

Migrants born elsewhere and settled in another village or town vary in their ratio to total population in the different districts of Tamil Nadu. The highest ratio of migrants among the population is noticed in the district with the least population in the State, viz., Nilgiri. Of its population of 630,169 persons, 261,449 constituting 41.49 per cent are migrants. The other important districts with migrants accounting for substantial percentages of their respective population are Chengalpattu (35. 49 per cent), Coimbatore (35. 43 per cent), Periyar (33.18 per cent), Thanjavur (32.01 per cent) and Madras (30.69 per cent). Kanniyakumari (22.19 per cent) and Ramanathapuram (22.94 per cent) district have returned lower migrant population among the districts. Migrants constitute generally a higher ratio among the female population in contrast to male population (vide Table 11.2). While only 19.56 per cent are migrants among males, 37.59 per cent among the females in the State are migrants. Female migrants ratio exceeds even 40 per cent in seven out of the 16 districts. Among the male population, migrants exceed 20 per cent, only in five districts, the highest being 38.63 per cent in Nilgiri. The second highest is recorded among the male population of Madras City (30.64 per cent).

Classification of migrants

Of the 13.78 million migrants with places of residence different from their places of birth, 62.30 per cent are found within the dis-

MIGRANTS BY PLACE OF BIRTH, 1961 - 81



• EACH BOX REPRESENTS ONE MILLION PERSONS

trict, while 28.94 per cent belong to other districts of the State. Thus, 91.24 per cent of migrants are inter-district and intra-district migrants within the State. While 6.70 per cent of the migrants are born in other States/Union Territories of India, 2.06 per cent are born in other countries. A comparative picture of the ratio of migrants of the above types during both 1971 and 1981 by sex is presented in Table 11.3. While the ratio of migrants born in other districts, States and countries shown some increase in 1981 as compared to 1971, those born and migrated to villages/towns of the same district has declined from 66.29 per cent in 1971 to 62.30% in 1981. The proportion of such migrants has declined both among males and females. Ratio of migrants from one district to another and those of other States and abroad is higher among males when compared to similar categories among female migrants.

Inter-District migration

Movement of people from one district to another within Tamil Nadu is of considerable interest and they constitute a good proportion of the total migrant population in every district. The percentage of persons born in the rest of the districts of the State and enumerated in each district to the concerned district population and also its total migrants are quite interesting (vide Table 11.4). The highest percentage of such migrants is observed in Madras district. In Madras and its neighbourhoods, the population is constantly growing. The growing importance of this metropolis as chief industrial and commercial centre of south has been responsible for this attraction. As it is reaching a saturation point due to the insufficiency of basic amenities, a number of neighbouring sub-urban towns lying in Chengalpattu district are also gradually getting densely populated. Migrants from the rest of the districts form 21.94 per cent of Madras City's population. The ratio of these migrants to all the place of birth migrants in Madras is high at 71.49 per cent While Chengalpattu district is next in importance among the various districts for a high ratio of migrants from the other 15 districts (42.66 per cent), we find that lowest proportion of such migrants to total migrants is in Kanniyakumari district (7.68 per cent). A comparison of the ratio of male and female migrants from other districts in the State to total male and female migrants in each district indicates that male migrant ratio is higher than those of the females in all the districts. The difference in these ratios is substantial in the case of some districts like Chengalpattu, South Arcot, Dharmapuri, Thanjavur, etc., and it is the least in the case of Madras. Although the females are more among the place of birth migrants, it is obvious that the majority

of them move only to towns and villages within the district. In the case of Madras, however, which is a city-district, there is no possibility of migration within the district. The major proportion of migrants to Madras City is from the other 15 districts of Tamil Nadu (71.49 per cent) and the rest are mainly from other States of India.

Place of birth migrants from the other districts of the State to a particular district constitute a high ratio to the total district's population in the case of Madras (21.94 per cent), and it is comparatively higher in the districts of Chengalpattu (15.14 per cent), Nilgiri (13.76 per cent) and Periyar (10.30 per cent) also. Such migrants form only 5 to 10 per cent in eight districts and below five per cent in the remaining four districts of the State. The lowest ratios of 1.70 per cent and 3.64 per cent are recorded in the southern most districts of Kanniyakumari and Tirunelveli respectively.

Net inter-district migrants

We have now observed that the movement of population from one district to another within the State forms a major ratio of the migrant population. While people who move into a district from the other districts constitute what are called in-migrants in respect of that district, those who move out of that particular district to the rest of the State's districts are out-migrants of that district. The excess of in-migrants over the out-migrants or vice versa give us what is called net migrants. In reality, it is these migrants who affect the growth of population of the district in addition to the natural factors of births and deaths. From Table 11.5, we can see that net inter-district migrants to Madras, that is, excess of in-migrants from the other 15 district to Madras over the out-migrants from Madras to them, constitute 413,564 or 12.62 per cent of the population. This is the highest for any district and such excess in-migration results in increasing the density of population and making the population of the affected district grow at a faster rate. Net migrants from other districts has added to the population substantially in the district of Chengalpattu (8.67 per cent) as also in Nilgiri (7.86 per cent). The other districts with excess of in-migrants over out-migrants are Coimbatore, Periyar, Dharmapuri and South Arcot. In the remaining districts of the State, more number of migrants have moved over to other districts than the in-migrants into these districts and there is a net loss of population as a consequence of inter district movement. Such state of higher out-migration, exceeding five per cent of their total population as in 1981, are observed in the three southern most

districts of Tamil Nadu, viz., Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari.

Growth of population and migration

We have seen how excessive migration into a place from other areas causes a higher increase of population in some places. Even the faster growth of big cities and important urban centres are caused only by such large-scale migration into those cities/towns from other places. At State level, we find that it is migration within the districts and the State that constitute a major portion in Tamil Nadu and inter-State movements as also those from other countries are not substantial. In the case of Tamil Nadu, 2.06 per cent of all place of birth migrants are born in other countries. Excluding those who are born in other countries and considering the rest of the migrants alone in the State, we see that only 6.85 per cent of migrants have been born in other States/Union Territories in India and have moved to Tamil Nadu. The rest constituting 93.15 per cent, have moved within the districts and State only. Among the male migrants from within the country enumerated in Tamil Nadu, 91.13 per cent are within Tamil Nadu and only the rest, viz., 8.87 per cent are from other States. Among the internal female migrants, a still higher ratio of 94.22 per cent are observed to have moved within the State.

The higher rate of population growth in the cities and towns as compared to the villages is itself an indicator of large-scale rural to urban migration. Such urban-ward migration is a continuous phenomenon in Tamil Nadu. The urban population of Tamil Nadu has registered a sizable increase of 27.98 per cent during 1971-81, as against the percentage increase of just 12.95 in the rural areas. The overall decadal increase of the population of the entire State in the same period was only 17.50 per cent. The urban decadal variation percentage has been much higher than that in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu in every decade since 1901. It has increased by a high 485.44 per cent in the 80 years since 1901, as against 96.37 per cent in the case of rural population in the same period. Larger migration towards bigger towns and cities is also apparent from the higher decadal increase in the population of Class I Cities (with population of one lakh and above) during 1971-81, viz., 43.44 per cent. Such a high increase is also recorded in the next class of towns, i.e., Class II (Population 50,000—99,999) whose population rose by 59.93 per cent during 1971-81. While the smaller towns of Classes III and IV have grown by less than ten per cent in the last decade, the population in the lower Classes V and VI (of below 10,000 population) have even declined. It is also well known that inhabitants

of smaller towns too are inclined to move towards bigger towns and cities.

Impact of migration on the State's growth rate of population

At state level, the increase in the number of migrants from other States causes considerable population growth, in addition to the natural increase caused by births over deaths. Inter-State migrants into Tamil Nadu based on place of birth data have increased from 7.99 lakhs in 1971 to 9.24 lakhs in 1981. In other words, there had been a minimum inter-state migration of 1.25 lakhs during the ten year period of 1971-81. Considering the number of migrants from other countries into the State, we find that there is a net increase of 1.27 lakhs in the decade over the 1971 figure of 1.57 lakhs. Thus, there is a net minimum addition to the population due to immigration during 1971-81 of 2.52 lakhs out of the 484.08 lakhs population of the State. Population increase due to immigration in the last ten years alone accounts for 0.52 per cent of the present population.

Migrants by place of last residence

As mentioned earlier, we have gathered information in Census on migrants based on place of last residence also, besides place of birth. We find that the total number of migrants in the State with a different village/town of residence from the place of enumeration is 14.03 million and they constitute 28.98 per cent of the total population of the State. Of this, about 65 per cent are females. Thus, we observe that females (who constitute 91.51 lakhs) out-number male migrants (48.75 lakhs). While male migrants constitute only 19.91 per cent of the male population, the female migrants constitute a higher percentage of 38.26 among the female population. Table 11.6 gives the distribution of migrants by last residence during 1971 and 1981. It is obvious from this that the movement of females is higher and this is generally attributed to the custom of movement of females soon after marriage to their husband's house. Of the total migrants, 91.84 per cent are migrants within the State of Tamil Nadu, 6.34 per cent had their last residence in other States of India and 1.82 per cent in other countries. The ratio of migrants within the State is higher among females (93.34 per cent) than among males (89.03 per cent). The ratio among the males is observed to be more than those among females in respect of migrants with last residence in other States, and in other countries as well. Migrants within the same district of enumeration form the major proportion of the total State's migrants, viz., 64.47 per cent. Migrants who have moved from other districts of the State itself constitute 27.37 per cent. Movement from one district to another is higher among males than among the females.

Internal migrants

Among the migrants based on place of last residence, a large ratio of 98.18 per cent are internal migrants, that is, those who have moved from one-place to another within the district itself, between the districts and even those who have last resided in other States and Union Territories within the country. This proportion is only slightly less than the 1971 figure of 98.38 per cent. Of the internal migrants, we observe that 93.54 per cent are within the State and only 6.46 per cent belong to the other States and Union Territories. Of the migrants from other States, viz., 8.89 lakhs, 1.74 lakhs had last resided in Andhra Pradesh, 1.41 lakhs in Karnataka, 3.54 lakhs in Kerala and just about a lakh in the Pondicherry Union Territory. Movement from these neighbouring States and Union Territory, which have common borders, constitute the bulk of nearly 85 per cent of the total migrants from other States/ Union Territories to Tamil Nadu. The contribution from the other North Indian States is obviously very meagre.

The number of migrants who have last resided in other countries and now enumerated in Tamil Nadu is 2.52 lakhs and of this, a substantial number, viz., 1.64 lakhs belong to Sri Lanka, around half a lakh to Burma and around 17,000 to Malaysia.

Rural-Urban composition of migration

Movement of the people could be from one village to another, one town to another and from village to town or vice versa. Such migration flow is brought under the four systems, viz., rural to rural, rural to urban, urban to rural and urban to urban. Table 11.8 and 11.9 present this data in relation to internal migrants alone (i.e., within the country only) and excludes figures on migrants from countries outside India into Tamil Nadu, which are not sizeable. While the first table (11.8) relates to migrants by place of last residence, the next one deals with 'Place of birth' migrants.

There were a total number of 128.82 lakh migrants based on place of last residence within Tamil Nadu as per 1981 Census. Of this, we notice that over half (51.72 per cent) have moved from rural to rural, i.e., from one village to the other within the State. The extent of migrants from rural to urban is 19.16 per cent. While 9.72 per cent of the migrants within the State have moved from urban areas to villages, 19.41 per cent of them have moved from urban to urban, i.e., from one city or town to another city or town. Compared to the last census of 1971, we see that there is a downward shift during the last decade in the case of rural to rural migrant ratio as also in rural to urban migrant rate, while there is an upward shift in the

ratio in the case of urban to urban and urban to rural components. It is also seen that of the movement of migrants within the State in 1981, a large majority (70.87 per cent) have moved out from rural areas and only 29.12 per cent have shifted from 'urban' areas.

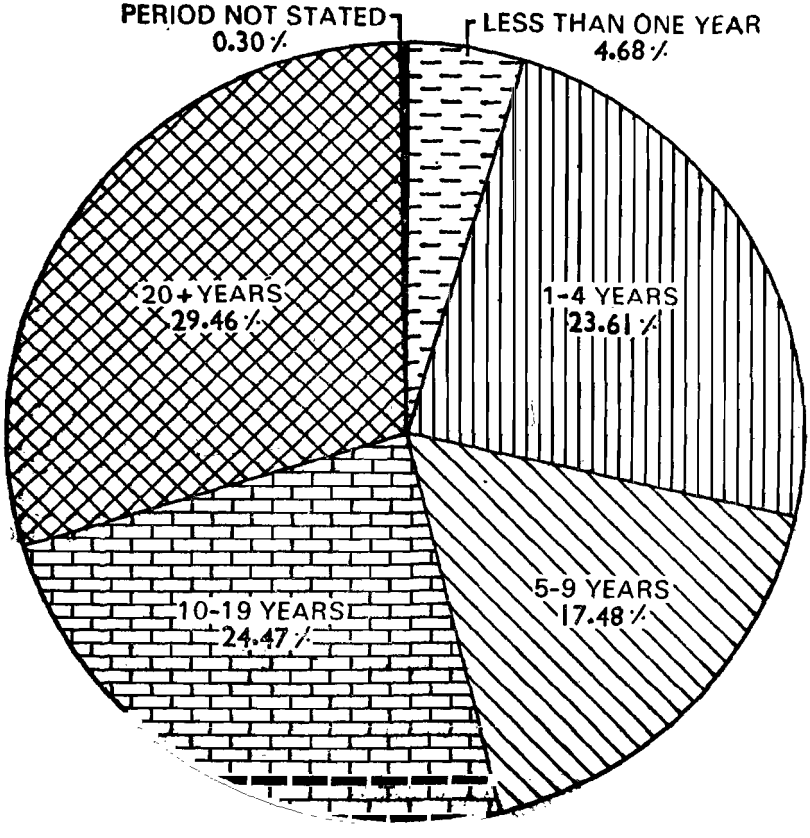
There have been migrants to the extent of 8.89 lakhs who have had last residence in other States/Union Territories in India. While the largest of them (49.79 per cent) have moved from urban to urban, 22.13 per cent have moved from rural to urban areas, 15.17 per cent from rural to rural and 12.89 per cent from urban to rural.

The ratio of migrants from rural to urban and vice versa in the case of migrants based on place of birth data also (Table 11.9), reveals more or less the same trend as discussed in the previous para for migrants based on place of last residence. The large majority of migrants within the State are found to move from 'rural to rural' only. Around one-fifth of the migrants move from rural to urban. Movement of migrants from cities and towns either to other urban or rural areas is not of much significance from the point of view of growth of urban population and such migrants constitute hardly 30 per cent of the total migrants within the State.

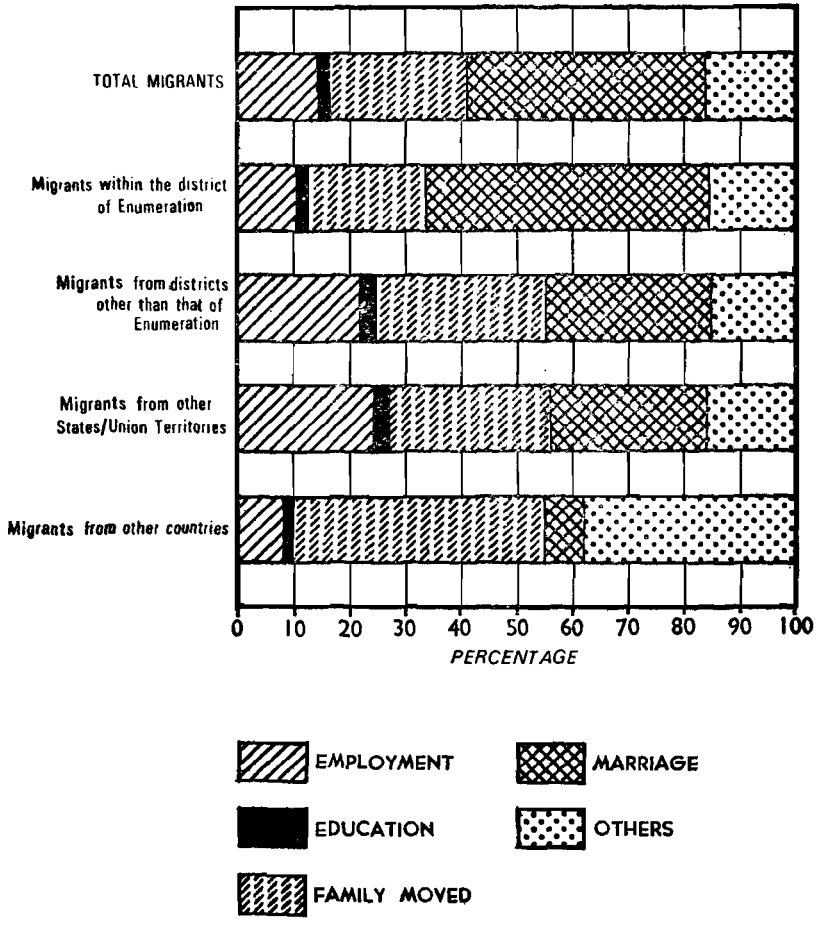
Impact of migration on urbanisation

There has been an addition of 34.87 lakhs of urban population in Tamil Nadu in 1981 over the figure of 1971. They constitute nearly 22 per cent of the total urban population of the State of 159.52 lakhs. It would be interesting to consider how much of this increase is attributable to migration, to addition of new towns and to natural growth. The last component is often difficult to determine. An idea on the extent of migration can be made with reference to migrants whose duration of residence in the places of enumeration is less than 10 years. We find that 11.73 lakhs of persons from the rural areas have moved into the urban areas in the last decade within the State. This is based on their reported period of continuous residence in the towns for 0—9 years since their last migration from the villages. As against this, we find that 7.13 lakhs of persons have moved from the towns to the villages. The net migration into urban areas, which is calculated as the difference between the above two figures, is 4.60 lakhs. In addition, we observe that 2.96 lakhs have moved into the cities/towns in Tamil Nadu from other States and another 60,000 or so from other countries also. In all, therefore, 8.18 lakhs of individuals have moved into the cities and towns of the State

MIGRANTS BY DURATION OF RESIDENCE, 1981



MIGRANTS BY REASONS, 1981



in the previous ten years alone. This figure roughly accounts for 23.5 per cent of the total additional urban population of 34.87 lakhs in the State in the last decade. The increase of urban population, consequent on the recognition of 30 new towns in 1981, taking into account the 13 derecognised towns, is around 2.03 lakhs. Thus, migration as also new towns, have added 10.21 lakhs or have contributed to an increase of 8.19 per cent over the 1971 urban population, while the urban growth rate is 27.98 per cent. The balance growth of about 19.8 per cent could be taken to represent natural growth in towns.

Duration of residence of migrants

Data on the duration of residence of the migrants in the place where they are enumerated (vide Table 11.10) throws light on the extent of movement over a period of time. Of the total migrants with a last place of residence, we notice that 29.46 per cent have migrated from another village/town, twenty or more years ago. Another 24.47 per cent of them moved from their last place of residence between 10 and 19 years ago. Thus, it may be seen that nearly 54 per cent of the migrants have moved 10 years before the 1981 Census enumeration. Migrants of 5-9 years of duration of residence constitute 17.48 per cent. Movement of persons within the last one year (before census) accounts for just 4.68 per cent. If we can consider migrants of less than five years of residence as 'current migration', we observe that they form 28.29 per cent of all migrants. The 'current migrants' ratio is higher at 32.17 per cent in the case of migrants from one district to another within the State as also migrants from abroad (32.04 per cent). Migrants with ten and more years of continuous residence form less than 50 per cent in the above two categories only, while it is more than 50 per cent in the case of migrants from other States/Union Territories, migrants from within the districts where enumerated in the State and also all migrants with different place of last residence within the State.

Reasons for migration

For the first time in Census, we have gathered five broad reasons for migration in the 1981 Census. The reasons, under which the migrants based on 'place of last residence' were categorised are employment, education, marriage, consequent on family movement and 'other' reasons. Table 11.11 gives the percentage of migrants by the above five reasons for the three categories of migrants within the State, from other States/Union Territories in India and from other countries, separately for persons, males and females. Considering the intra-State

migrants only, we find that 'marriage' is the major reason for migration, accounting for 44.34 per cent of the migrants. As females constitute the large majority among the migrants and form nearly two-thirds of the total migrants with last residence and as their movement is mostly due to marriage, we find such a high ratio under this reason. The second highest ratio of 23.73 per cent of migrants have returned 'family moved' as the reason. Probably, the movement of the bread-winner or other earning members of the family or transfer of heads of families cause such movements. Dependents, aged persons and students also shift from their place of residence to another village or town because of family movement. While 'employment' is the reason for 13.81 per cent of migrants, 2.42 per cent have moved towards 'education'. 'Other reasons' account for the balance of 15.70 per cent.

Of the male migrants within Tamil Nadu, employment accounts for the largest ratio of 35.55 per cent followed by 31.37 under 'family moved'. 'Others' account for a sizable ratio of 25.95 per cent of male migrants. Strangely enough, 2.40 per cent of male migrants have returned 'marriage' as the reason for their migration. Among females, nearly two-thirds (65.66 per cent) have migrated because of 'marriage' and the second highest ratio of 19.84 per cent have migrated due to family movement.

Considering male migrants from other States and Union Territories who have moved into Tamil Nadu, the largest ratio of 47.09 per cent have 'employment' as the main reason and another 27.76 per cent have moved due to family movement. Among female migrants from other States/Union Territories, 49.29 per cent have moved into Tamil Nadu because of marriage and another 30.88 per cent due to 'family movement'. In the case of in-migrants from abroad, 'family movement' is the major reason for migration.

Migrants in Madras urban agglomeration

Madras urban agglomeration, as we know, consists of the core city of Madras and 48 other constituent cities and towns and is the biggest urban complex of the State with a population of 42.89 lakhs in 1981. Being a big industrial and commercial centre, there is no wonder, the migrant population is quite substantial in Madras and its suburbs, constituting this urban agglomeration. There are 14.79 lakhs of migrants in Madras urban agglomeration, constituting 34.5 per cent of the population. Of the nearly 15 lakh migrants into Madras urban agglomeration, 65 per cent

are from other districts of Tamil Nadu itself. While 21.67 per cent of the migrants in Madras urban agglomeration have come from other States and Union Territories in India, 2.75 per cent have had their last residence in foreign countries. While 28.13 per cent of the migrants to the urban agglomeration have given employment as the reason, 33.00 per cent have migrated due to family movement, 19.10 per cent due to marriage, 2.67 per cent due to education and 17.10 per cent for other reasons.

TABLE 11.1

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION CLASSIFIED BY PLACE OF BIRTH TO TOTAL POPULATION IN TAMIL NADU IN 1981

Birth Place	Percentage to total population		
	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4
Total Population	100.00	100.00	100.00
a. Born in place of enumeration .	71.53	74.97	64.54
b. Born elsewhere in district of enumeration	17.74	19.39	14.37
c. Born in other districts of the State	8.24	4.38	16.08
d. Born in adjacent States . . (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry)	1.71	0.76	3.65
e. Born in other States/Union Territories of India	0.19	0.04	0.51
f. Born in countries outside India .	0.59	0.46	0.85
g. Birth place unclassified . .	N	N	..

N—Negligible percentage

TABLE 11.2

PERCENTAGE OF MIGRANTS BY PLACE OF BIRTH TO TOTAL POPULATION

State/District	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	28.47	19.56	37.59
1. Madras	30.69	30.64	30.74
2. Chengalpattu	35.49	26.65	44.72
3. North Arcot	25.27	13.86	36.93
4. South Arcot	28.12	15.05	41.57
5. Dharmapuri	24.22	13.94	34.93
6. Salem	26.09	16.91	35.76
7. Periyar	33.18	22.43	44.43
8. Coimbatore	35.43	29.70	41.47
9. Nilgiri	41.49	38.63	44.47
10. Madurai	24.86	17.97	31.92
11. Tiruchchirappalli	29.17	18.33	40.17
12. Thanjavur	32.01	19.97	44.20
13. Pudukkottai	26.87	14.67	38.98
14. Ramanathapuram	22.94	14.95	30.74
15. Tirunelveli	25.41	16.96	33.52
16. Kanniyakumari	22.19	13.60	30.90

TABLE 11.3

PROPORTION OF MIGRANTS BY PLACE OF BIRTH BY CERTAIN CATEGORIES, 1971—81

Place of Birth	1971			1981		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A. Migrants born within the State of enumeration to total migrants	91.76	88.66	93.50	91.24	88.45	92.72
(i) Migrants born elsewhere in district of enumeration to total migrants	66.29	56.88	71.56	62.30	52.48	67.53
(ii) Migrants born in other districts of the State to total migrants	25.47	31.78	21.94	28.94	35.97	25.19
B. Migrants born in other States of India to total migrants	6.79	9.43	5.31	6.70	8.61	5.69
C. Migrants born in other countries to total migrants	1.34	1.84	1.06	2.06	2.94	1.59

TABLE 11.4

PERCENTAGE OF IN MIGRANTS BY PLACE OF BIRTH FROM OTHER DISTRICTS OF THE STATE

District	Percentage to total Population			Percentage to total migrants		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Madras	21.94	22.05	21.82	71.49	71.97	70.99
2. Chengalpattu	15.14	13.65	16.70	42.66	51.21	37.34
3. North Arcot	4.69	3.07	6.35	18.57	22.14	17.20
4. South Arcot	6.48	4.58	8.43	23.03	30.44	20.27
5. Dharmapuri	4.78	3.93	5.66	19.73	28.20	16.21
6. Salem	5.09	3.86	6.39	19.52	22.82	17.88
7. Periyar	10.30	8.29	12.39	31.03	36.98	27.89
8. Coimbatore	9.72	9.44	10.02	27.44	31.78	24.16
9. Nilgiri	13.76	13.61	13.92	33.17	35.23	31.30
10. Madurai	6.69	5.59	7.80	26.90	31.14	24.45
11. Tiruchchirappalli	9.53	7.15	11.94	32.67	38.99	29.74
12. Thanjavur	6.57	5.46	7.70	20.53	27.36	17.41
13. Pudukkottai	8.94	5.82	12.04	33.28	39.65	30.90
14. Ramanathapuram	6.02	4.63	7.37	26.23	30.98	23.96
15. Tirunelveli	3.64	2.96	4.30	14.33	17.43	12.83
16. Kanniyakumari	1.70	1.50	1.91	7.68	11.03	6.18

TABLE 11.5

INTER-DISTRICT MIGRATION BASED ON PLACE OF BIRTH DATA, 1981

District	Inmigrants from other districts of the State	Out-migrants to other districts	Net migrants (+ or —)	Percentage of net migrants to total population
1	2	3	4	5
1. Madras	718,837	305,273	+413,564	+12.62
2. Chengalpattu . . .	547,540	233,817	+313,723	+ 8.67
3. North Arcot . . .	207,175	319,237	—112,062	— 2.54
4. South Arcot . . .	272,151	271,365	+ 786	+ 0.02
5. Dharmapuri . . .	95,429	53,925	+ 41,504	+ 2.08
6. Salem	175,288	301,660	—126,372	—3.67
7. Periyar	212,980	167,113	+ 45,867	+ 2.22
8. Coimbatore . . .	297,487	204,332	+ 93,155	+ 3.04
9. Nilgiri	86,717	37,191	+ 49,526	+ 7.86
10. Madurai	303,245	397,706	— 94,461	— 2.08
11. Tiruchchirappalli . .	344,212	349,019	— 4,807	— 0.13
12. Thanjavur. . . .	267,110	324,698	57,588	— 1.42
13. Pudukkottai . . .	103,434	122,681	— 19,247	— 1.66
14. Ramanathapuram . .	200,644	419,557	—218,913	— 6.56
15. Tirunelveli . . .	130,145	383,196	—253,051	— 7.08
16. Kanniyakumari . .	24,262	95,886	— 71,624	— 5.03

TABLE 11.6

MIGRANTS BY PLACE OF LAST RESIDENCE

Place of last residence	1971			1981		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A. Migrants within the state of enumeration to total migrants	91.75	88.39	93.64	91.84	89.03	93.34
(i) Migrants who have resided elsewhere in district of enumeration to total migrants	66.90	57·47	72.23	64.47	55.02	69.51
(ii) Migrants who have resided in other districts of the state to total migrants	24.85	30.92	21.41	27.37	34.01	23.83
B. Migrants who have resided in other States of India to total migrants	6.63	9.23	5.16	6.34	8 27	5.31
C. Migrants who have resided in other countries to total migrants	1.47	2.25	1.03	1.82	2.70	1.35

TABLE 11.7

DISTRIBUTION OF INTERNAL MIGRANTS BY PLACE OF LAST RESIDENCE

Migrants by place of last residence	1971			1981		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A. Migrants within the State to total internal migrants	93.26	90.55	94.78	93.54	91.50	94.62
B. Migrants from other States in India to total internal migrants	6.74	9.45	5.22	6.46	8.50	5.38
C Ratio of Internal Migrants to total migrants	98.38	97.62	98.80	98.18	97.30	98.65

TABLE 11.8

RURAL-URBAN COMPOSITION OF INTERNAL MIGRANTS BY PLACE OF LAST RESIDENCE

(Persons in lakhs)

Place of last Residence	Total Rural Urban	Place of Enumeration					
		1971			1981		
		Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. With in the State	Total	109.74	71.19	38.55	128.82	79.14	49.68
		(100.00)	(64.87)	(35.13)	(100.00)	(61.44)	(38.56)
	Rural	83.32	61.10	22.22	91.30	66.62	24.68
		(75.93)	(55.68)	(20.25)	(70.87)	(51.72)	(19.16)
	Urban	26.36	10.03	16.33	37.52	12.52	25.00
		(24.02)	(9.14)	(14.88)	(29.12)	(9.72)	(19.41)
2. In other States of India . . .	Total	7.93	2.36	5.57	8.89	2.50	6.40
		(100.00)	(29.76)	(70.24)	(100.00)	(28.07)	(71.93)
	Rural	3.30	1.26	2.04	3.32	1.35	1.97
		(41.66)	(15.89)	(25.77)	(37.31)	(15.17)	(22.13)
	Urban	4.60	1.08	3.52	5.57	1.15	4.43
		(58.02)	(13.61)	(44.41)	(62.67)	(12.89)	(49.79)

Note : Figures within brackets indicate percentages to the total migrants.

TABLE 11.9

RURAL-URBAN COMPOSITION OF INTERNAL MIGRANTS BY PLACE OF BIRTH

(Persons in lakhs)

Place of birth	Total Rural Urban	Place of Enumeration					
		1971			1981		
		Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Within the State	Total	107.97	70.61	37.36	125.74	77.17	48.57
		(100.00)	(65.40)	(34.60)	(100.00)	(61.37)	(38.63)
	Rural	83.99	61.18	22.81	90.28	64.73	25.55
		(77.79)	(56.66)	(21.13)	(71.80)	(51.48)	(20.32)
	Urban	23.93	9.38	14.55	35.46	12.44	23.02
		(22.16)	(8.69)	(13.47)	(28.20)	(9.89)	(18.31)
2. In other States of India . . .	Total	7.99	2.28	5.71	9.24	2.60	6.64
		(100.00)	(28.54)	(71.46)	(100.00)	(28.10)	(71.90)
	Rural	3.62	1.32	2.30	3.74	1.49	2.25
		(45.32)	(16.50)	(28.82)	(40.42)	(16.10)	(24.33)
	Urban	4.35	0.95	3.40	5.50	1.11	4.40
		(54.38)	(11.80)	(42.58)	(59.56)	(12.00)	(47.56)

Note : Figures within brackets indicate percentages to the total migrants.

TABLE 11.10

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS BY DURATION OF RESIDENCE IN PLACE OF ENUMERATION IN TAMIL NADU

Place of last residence	Total Migrants	Duration of Residence					
		Less than 1 Year	1—4 Years	5—9 Years	10—19 Years	20+ Years	Period not stated
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
TOTAL	100.00	4.68	23.61	17.48	24.47	29.46	0.30
1. Within the State but outside the place of enumeration	100.00	4.68	23.48	17.22	24.31	30.02	0.29
2. Elsewhere in district of enumeration	100.00	4.23	22.22	16.61	24.22	32.45	0.27
3. In other districts of the State . .	100.00	5.74	26.43	18.67	24.51	24.31	0.34
4. Other States/Union Territories in India	100.00	4.98	24.16	18.18	26.32	25.95	0.41
5. Outside the country . . .	100.00	3.38	28.66	28.00	26.44	13.22	0.30

TABLE 11.11

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS BY PLACE OF LAST RESIDENCE BY REASONS FOR MIGRATION

	Last Residence	Persons Males Females	Total Migrants	Reason for Migration				
				Employ-ment	Educa-tion	Family moved	Marriage	Others
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Within the State	Persons	100.00	13.81	2.42	23.73	44.34	15.70
		Males	100.00	35.55	4.73	31.37	2.40	25.95
		Females	100.00	2.76	1.24	19.84	65.66	10.50
2.	Other States/Union Territories in India	Persons	100.00	23.77	2.83	29.47	27.49	16.44
		Males	100.00	47.09	4.09	27.76	1.22	19.84
		Females	100.00	4.42	1.78	30.88	49.29	13.63
3.	Other countries	Persons	100.00	8.03	1.44	45.37	7.04	38.12
		Males	100.00	12.60	1.71	43.37	0.51	41.81
		Females	100.00	3.14	1.16	47.50	14.02	34.18

CHAPTER XII

SUMMARY

From the foregoing analysis based mainly on data gathered in the decennial population census, one can have a reasonably good assessment of the manpower resources, socio-economic and demographic characteristics of Tamil Nadu. These details cannot, by themselves, be deemed to present a full picture of the economy of the State, as we have not taken into account the current levels of agricultural and industrial production in the State, nor the available economic resources and their exploitation or the levels of income and employment as also the overall standards of living of the people. Notwithstanding this lacunae, it is possible to have a glimpse about the quality of the population, based on levels of literacy and employment, density and rural-urban distribution, decennial growth rate and ratio of dependent population, fertility and migration. In this concluding chapter, let us try to recollect some of the salient characteristics of the population of the State.

With a population of around 48.4 million as on 1st March 1981, the State ranks seventh among the 22 States and nine Union Territories (that were in existence then). Of the four States in South India, Tamil Nadu is the second populous State, next only to Andhra Pradesh (population 53.5 million). Around seven per cent of the country's population are in Tamil Nadu. In area, Tamil Nadu (130.058 sq. kms) constitutes just 3.96 per cent of the area of the country as a whole and it ranks eleventh among the States and Union Territories.

The districts of the State are comparatively bigger with larger number of people than in many other parts of the country. Out of the 16 districts of the State, four have population exceeding four million. The average population of a district in Tamil Nadu is 3.03 million, as against 1.66 million for the entire country (with 412 districts) and this average for Tamil Nadu represents the second highest, the first being West Bengal (with 3.41 million). Tamil Nadu is one of the densest States in the country, with 372 persons per sq. km., as against 216 only per sq. km., for India. The State has the fifth highest density among the States of India. The urban density, i.e., in the cities and towns of the State (2,722 per sq. km.) is a little over ten times the density in the rural areas or villages (261

per sq. km). The city district of Madras has a very high density of 19,274 individuals per sq. km.

The decadal increase in population is an important index of population variation. The population of Tamil Nadu grew by 17.50 per cent during the 10 year period, 1971-81, and this represents a decline over the growth rate recorded in the previous decade of 1961-71, viz., 22.30 per cent. For the country as a whole, the population increase in 1971-81 is 25 per cent. It is important to note that the decadal variation of Tamil Nadu in 1971—81 is the lowest among the States/Union Territories of India, followed by Kerala (19.24 per cent). Among the 16 districts, the decadal increase in population is very high and is 25 to 30 per cent in the case of three districts, (viz., Madras, Chengalpattu and Nilgiri). The districts with lower decadal growth of 10 to 15 per cent are Tirunelveli, Tiruchchirappalli and Thanjavur.

The extent of urbanisation is said to be an index of economic development. In Tamil Nadu, about one-third of the population (nearly 16 million) are found living in cities and towns. The rest of the population, viz., 32.5 million are distributed in the 15,831 villages. The average population of a village is high in Tamil Nadu (2,050) than for India (911). The villages are not uniform in size and exhibit wide variation in population size. The average village population is as high as 15,426 in Kanniyakumari district, while it is only 1,190 in Chengalpattu district. Madras is a city district and is urban in entirety. Among the other districts, the proportion of urban population is high in Coimbatore (50.46 per cent) and Nilgiri (48.85 per cent) districts. Dharmapuri, South Arcot, Pudukkottai and Kanniyakumari are the districts with low urban population ratios of less than 20 per cent. The 21 cities of Tamil Nadu with over a lakh of population in each of them account for nearly 50 per cent of the urban population of the State. The total number of urban units in the State is 434. The chief city centres of the State, besides the metropolis of Madras, are Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruchchirappalli and Salem.

The sex ratio, representing the number of females per 1,000 males, has been gradually declining in India as well as Tamil Nadu in the last many decades. During 1981, the sex ratio has declined only marginally to 977 from 978 in 1971. Sex ratio is found to be higher among the Muslims and Christians and lower among the Hindus. Looking at the age-structure of the population, which is an important demographic phe-

nomenon, we find that the ratio of the younger age group population of 0—14 ages has, interestingly enough, declined in 1981 to 35.01 per cent of the State population from 37.77 per cent in 1971. Population of this age group are mainly 'dependents' and consist of infants, young children and school going boys and girls. A good decline in the population of 0—4 and 5—9 age group is observed in the State in 1981 and this is believed to be an indication of fertility decline during the last decade.

Dependency ratio, which represents the ratio of the dependent population (belonging to the ages '0-14' and '60 and above') to the rest of the working age population (of 15—59 years) is considered as an important index concerning the age distribution of a given population. This index for Tamil Nadu, which stands now at 71 as per 1981 census, has declined from 77 in 1971. For India, the index works to 85 as per 1981 census, as against 92 during 1971. The dependency could in reality be deemed to be much higher than this ratio as many individuals among the 15—59 ages too are not actually engaged as 'workers'. In Tamil Nadu, the proportion of main workers among the population of 15—59 age group is 59.72 per cent. Nearly, 35 per cent of the State's population belong to younger age group of 0—14, while 6.41 per cent are 60 years and above. The high percentage of the population in the young age group of 0—14 as compared to the rest of the population is noteworthy and is considered to be symptomatic of the growing nature of the population.

In literacy, we find that Tamil Nadu has been ranking quite high and has recorded higher literacy rates than for the country as a whole, in every census since 1901. The literacy rate registered in 1981 for Tamil Nadu is 46.76 per cent, while it is 36.23 per cent for India. Literacy among the males in Tamil Nadu works to 51.78 per cent and among females 34.99 per cent. Kerala is the most progressive State in this regard and it has got the highest literacy rate (70.42 per cent) among the States. The literates are found to be larger in proportion to population in the urban areas than in the rural areas and the ratio is higher in the bigger cities and towns also, as compared to the smaller ones. The effective literacy rate, calculated after ignoring the younger population of 0—4 (who are mostly illiterates, and are not reckoned as literates in census) works to 52.63 per cent in Tamil Nadu.

Economic growth and living standards are closely associated with the number of individuals engaged in economically productive activity, in addition to the availability of natural resources. 'Workers' as we know are the real producers of

goods and services and their ratio in the population is, therefore, an important index. Based on the activity of every individual, the population is classified in 1981 census as main workers, marginal workers and non-workers. There are 19.03 million main workers in Tamil Nadu who constitute 39.31 per cent of the State's population. There are also marginal workers to the tune of 1.17 million (2.42 per cent). The rest of the population are non-workers (58.27 per cent). Roughly, two out of every five individuals in Tamil Nadu are workers. Economically active population are more among the males than among females. Main workers among males constitute 55.85 per cent, as against 22.36 per cent among the females. Again, we find more workers among the rural population (43.20 per cent) than among the urban dwellers (31.37 per cent). Compared to India as a whole (33.45 per cent), the worker ratio in Tamil Nadu is high. A large majority of the main workers are engaged in agricultural activities (around 61 per cent), either as cultivators or as agricultural labourers. While activities connected with manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairs absorb 15.22 per cent of the main workers, trade and commerce accounts for 8.45 per cent and other services 7.75 per cent. Cultivation is prominent in the rural areas, while manufacturing, processing, etc., trade and commerce and other services are found to absorb more workers in the urban areas. In short, primary sector of economic activity accounts for 63.88 per cent of the main workers, the secondary sector 17.01 per cent and the tertiary sector 19.11 per cent. The primary sector includes the agricultural activities, besides forestry, fishing, plantations, mining and quarrying. While the secondary sector encompasses manufacturing activities and construction, the rest of the activities are covered by the tertiary sector. An interesting feature is that the extent of economically active people is more among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes than among the total population.

Though we have noticed some indications of declining growth in the State's population in recent years, like declining population in the younger age group of 0-4, declining birth rate and increased acceptance of family welfare measures, we see that the current population of the State is still growing sizably every year. The annual net addition to the population currently stands around 8—9 lakhs and the present rate of increase works to around 1.6 to 1.7 per cent per annum. The birth rate for 1985 at State level has been estimated to be 24.7 per 1000 and the death rate is 9.5, according to the Sample Registration System. No doubt, the rates point to a lower in-

crease in population in Tamil Nadu as compared to the rates a decade or two before and also to the rest of the country. In view of the limited natural resources in the State and the maximum exploitation of the existing water/power and other resources that is already taking place, further increase in population is likely to result in very serious social and economic problems. Provision of the basic amenities like food, clothing, shelter and an assured minimum living standard would be rendered a formidable task for the increasing population. It is, therefore, essential that more rational steps are planned towards reaching the goal of what is termed in the advanced nations as 'ZPG' or 'Zero Population Growth' within the next two or three decades from now. The next population stock taking, due for 1991, would certainly throw greater light on the achievements of the last decade in this regard, on the basis of which further initiatives and plans could be directed with redoubled vigour towards achieving a more optimum and balanced demographic situation.